

TRAILS AND SUMMITS *of the* ADIRONDACKS



By WALTER COLLINS O'KANE

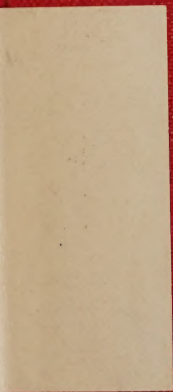
VACATION TRAMPS IN NEW ENGLAND HIGHLANDS

BY

ALLEN CHAMBERLAIN

Every one who has had the good fortune to follow Mr. Allen Chamberlain over the New England mountain trails knows his wide knowledge of them and his ability to impart to others his own information and enthusiasm. In this book he describes a dozen ideal walking tours in the Green Mountains, White Mountains, and Katahdin districts, varying from week-end trips of a day or two to a walk long enough to occupy a two weeks' vacation. ALL THE INFORMATION NECESSARY to the most complete enjoyment of each trip is included. Each chapter is accompanied by a route card and a sketch map of the tour, and there are also full-page illustrations of typical scenes in each district described. The final chapter is a practical discussion of equipment.

Illustrated.




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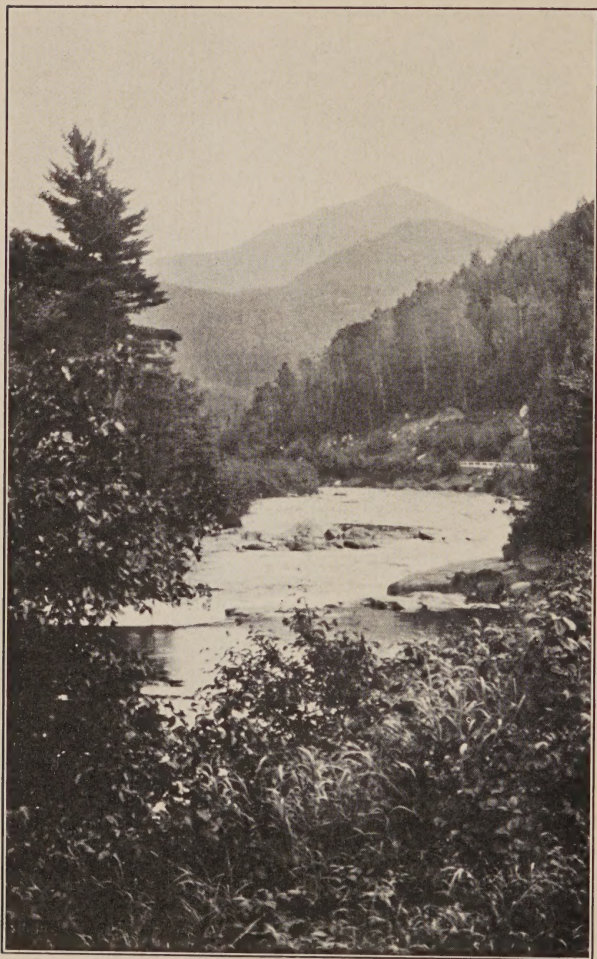


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TRAILS AND SUMMITS
OF THE
ADIRONDACKS



MOUNT WHITEFACE, FROM THE AUSABLE WEST
BRANCH

The Riverside Outdoor Handbooks

TRAILS AND SUMMITS OF THE ADIRONDACKS

BY
WALTER COLLINS O'KANE

WITH MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS



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FOREWORD

THIS book, like those that have preceded it, has been written with a dual purpose in mind: to describe the trails and the lay of the land so fully that the tramper may have no concern as to his whereabouts; and to include whatever of history, of description of view, or of other fact by the way, will contribute to enjoyment of a climb.

The distance to be walked in tramping a woods trail is always a matter for difference of opinion, unless the path has actually been measured, step by step, as with a bicycle wheel carrying an odometer. Even when that has been done, I think that the wheel sometimes fails to record all that the tramper must do, especially on very rocky and crooked bits of trail. But some clue as to distance must be given. The statements made in this book are intended as my estimate of the actual walking distance, allowing for lesser and greater turns and zigzags. They are based on many notes and records, made as I have climbed these mountains, as well as other available information.

Time is still more flexible. The allowance in hours that one should reasonably make for a given trip will vary with strength, experience, youth, and

the day's plans. The extent of variation will often be as two to one, sometimes as three to one. I have chosen to set down what I believe to be a conservative average, allowing for rests and for lingering to enjoy wayside interests. A fast, young tramper, in a hurry, may do some of these trips in half the time here allotted. A slow tramper, of leisurely habits, may use more than the time suggested.

To all of those who have helped in securing the material for this book I gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness, and especially to Mr. W. G. Howard, Mr. H. W. Hicks, Mr. Russell M. L. Carson, the Reverend I. C. Smart, Mr. Arthur H. Masten, Professor W. J. Miller, and Mr. A. J. Coughlan.

The photograph of Mount Marcy from Haystack was supplied by the New York State Conservation Department.

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The illustration facing page 52 is from a photograph supplied by the State Conservation Department of New York. The others are from photographs by the author.

TRAILS AND SUMMITS
OF THE
ADIRONDACKS

TRAILS AND SUMMITS OF THE ADIRONDACKS



CHAPTER I

WHAT ARE THESE MOUNTAINS LIKE?

ABOUT noon one bright midsummer day I came out upon the summit of that vigorous Adirondack peak that is known as Mount Dix. The way to it led across a low divide, up the valley of a remote river until the base of the mountain was at hand, and thence steeply up a forested buttress. It was a wilderness journey, with no outlooks toward other mountains until well toward the summit.

As the scrub forest near the top finally gave way and the trail led out upon bare rocks, I looked abroad over many leagues. My eye was caught and held by a vast stretch of forested region in the southwest, and chiefly by a lake that lay in the midst of this great, wooded saucer. For within the undulating margin of that lake was the most animated company of islands that I had ever seen.

It appeared as if the distant onlooker, standing

miles away, had surprised them at their private affairs and caught them unawares. They were not in orderly array, but each appeared as if intent on its own business, about to go this way or that as fitted its individual desires. Some stood in groups, but not in line or sequence. All were wholly a part of the big wilderness round about them.

As I stood looking at them, greatly interested in their individuality, the thought came that those islands in their house of woods and waters were like the Adirondack Mountains themselves. In the characteristics that they displayed they were imitating the outstanding character of the array of peaks that looked down upon their playground. And so it still seems, with recollections of mountain after mountain of the Adirondack region crowding memory.

The setting of these mountains is a tremendous forest, wide and broad, much of it sheltering lakes of every size and shape. It is no mere strip of woods or series of patches, but is vast and deep. Extending mile after mile, most of it without road and much of it without trail, it is a genuine wilderness.

The trees are of many kinds, both evergreen and hardwood: pine, spruce, and fir as well as maple and birch, with a varied and extensive company of lesser prominence, mountain ash, striped maple,

alder, poplar, and others. They have found conditions to their liking, and most of them grow luxuriantly. There are no arid spots that one can recall, and few or none that are barren, except as rock ledges, that have been laid bare of soil by slides, stand waiting for the slow accumulation of earth-covering once more, or as storm-scoured summits permit only lowly plants to find shelter in crevices, or as fires have swept across the slopes with devastating breath. Everywhere there is a rich and deep forest.

The soil is moist. Even in the higher altitudes it is often a sponge so saturated with moisture that water is pressed out of it as you step upon it. The conditions that make a rich growth of plants possible are self-evident. Where trails have been cut and the bushes and branches cleared away, a boggy floor is often uncovered, wet and soft when it rains, peaty in times of drought. If the way lies at an angle and if the clouds have spilled enough of their contents, a little stream may claim the route that you would follow and the wet mold on rocks may be sodden and slippery. In a thousand moist openings that you pass the plants that like wetness fill the space to overflowing. On the great sides and flanks of the mountain masses there is a moist richness of soil and vegetation that makes the vestments luxurious while at the same time

easily torn, for when this covering overlies smooth ledges pitched at a sharp angle it sometimes gives way to slides that lay bare the underlying rocks as one might strip the tapestry from a wall.

In the broad valleys between the mountains the moisture often becomes swamp, with a slow-moving stream winding its way about in intricate curves and loops, in the midst of the tangle of trees and bushes that such habitat begets. The contour of the land flattens out. If one could not sometimes catch a glimpse of a mountain peak one might forget that the region is bounded by rugged, upended rock masses. The direction toward which the natural drainage trends becomes a question. Sometimes the surplus water finds its way out on more than one side, and thus it happens that headwaters of streams flowing toward the Hudson and others bound for the Saint Lawrence rise in common, and that no one can say of a raindrop falling there whether it will return to the sea by the one route or the other.

When the swamps give way to lakes, as they do so often in this region, there comes about a beautiful combination of open water and near-by heights. Through a great area of the Adirondack region this is the supreme charm. Scores of lakes, large and small, their shores typically wooded, look up at mountain after mountain and catch on their own

shining faces the image of the strong and steadfast summits that watch over them. Each, both lake and mountain, owes its existence to the same earth forces, exerted irresistibly through the slow lapse of time, the one with surface as fickle as a breeze, with substance itself always in process of change, the other solid, resisting, immutable, each a related part of the world of earth and sky — the scintillating water and the sturdy, purposeful islands of the scene that was visible that summer day from the summit of Mount Dix.

From base to crown these mountains, although heavily robed in soil and vegetation, give frequent evidence of the rock structure that after all lies so closely beneath. They do not characteristically rise in vertical cliffs, but they show their framework abundantly. A contour that appears conceived on flowing lines when viewed from a distance, proves on more intimate view to be a series of broken steps and steep slopes, with many a jutting rock mass and boulder.

It is difficult to compare the topography of the Adirondacks with that of the other noteworthy New England groups, the White Mountains and the Green Mountains. One cannot think of the Adirondacks as a homogeneous whole in the same way that one readily appraises the great axis range of Vermont, or the Presidentials or Franconias of

New Hampshire. There is a tendency to think in units of single mountains, Ampersand, Snowy, Dix, or Haystack. These New York summits, numerous though they are and closely associated, have marked individuality. Colden is not like Marcy nor is that like Haystack or Skylight, although they are connected.

Compared with the White Mountains they are not marked by the severity that one finds in the Presidentials or the Franconias, due to the long stretches above timberline. They are mountainous and strong in a different way. Compared with the Green Mountains they do not offer the long, flowing lines of the axis range of Vermont. There is no continuous skyline trail here, pursuing its course for two hundred miles. Instead there is vast wilderness, out of which rise groups and isolated peaks.

This, it seems to me, is their outstanding character — strongly individualized summits or groups in the midst of tremendous forest, each one a law unto itself — those independent islands in that lake that I saw from Dix. Many of the best stand relatively alone or with slight reference to their neighbors: Whiteface, Ampersand, Santanoni, Adams, Giant, Blue, Snowy. Where they do form groups the bond does not result in a long backbone of a range but rather a heterogeneous union. The

Great Range itself, highest and most famous of the assembled bands, is a loose alliance.

In general these mountains spring from broad bases. They are bulky and massive in proportion to their height, and if one could think of their cubic contents in any realizable terms one would find the answer impressive. Some of them, such as Noonmark, seem to be an exception and appear more like pinnacles when viewed in familiar aspect, but these, too, are likely to take on bulk when seen from another quarter. Colden is a peaked summit from the south, but a very broad mass from the west. Haystack is a spire from the Upper Ausable Lake but a ridge from Marcy.

A number of the higher summits are bare rock on top and many others have such scrubby or scattered growth of low trees as to give an impression of bareness and to afford its advantages so far as the view abroad is concerned. Whether or not there is a real timberline on the highest of these mountains depends on the meaning given to the word. If the term is understood to signify the margin of continuous growth of trees of such size as to constitute something resembling a forest, it will be found that a number of the highest rise beyond the upper limits of such growth. Various peaks, such as Whiteface, are so bare of soil on top that even the scrub has little chance. On

others, such as Cascade, fire has performed the only useful service that it ever performs for mountains in opening wide the view. All in all, many Adirondack summits offer unobstructed panoramas.

In the matter of nearness to motor thoroughfares the Adirondacks differ from the mountains of New Hampshire or Vermont. Some of the highest and most interesting are relatively remote. In the Green Mountains the long axis range is paralleled by roads distant only a few miles. In the White Mountains there are notches or passes in the very heart of the ranges, and some of these are traversed by highways which lead by the very foot of various high peaks. But in the Adirondacks the motor routes do not penetrate deeply into certain large areas. For the present, at least, the great wilderness treasures a number of its summits remotely and guards them with many a mile of sheltering forest.

And thus in this characteristic as in others they are the big brothers of the islands in the lake seen from Mount Dix; independent, individualistic, looking down upon wilderness waters, surrounded by vast forests, and remote from the hurrying clamor of human activities.

CHAPTER II

THE BUILDING OF THE ADIRONDACKS

THE story of the age-long succession of earth-movements that resulted in the formation of the Adirondack Mountains is a record of events extending so far back into remote time that the mind of man can find no means by which to appraise its meaning. It is a story that reaches to the beginnings of the present land masses of this world — to chapters that carry us back to primeval seas. For we know that among all the bodies of visible land in existence to-day the Adirondack Mountains date back to the very earliest. Other land of some sort, now vanished, preceded them. But so far as present land areas are concerned, whether in the Americas or in any of the other continents, these mountains of central New York are patriarchs.

As might be expected, the full record of the changes that brought them into being is a document with many entries, some of them obscure, some missing, some cleancut and unmistakable, the whole story an intricate affair. Only an expert can understand such a record in its details. But taking into account only the broader phases of the

story, we find it dividing itself into five principal elements, which run thus:

The laying-down of the rock substance that was to become the Adirondacks;

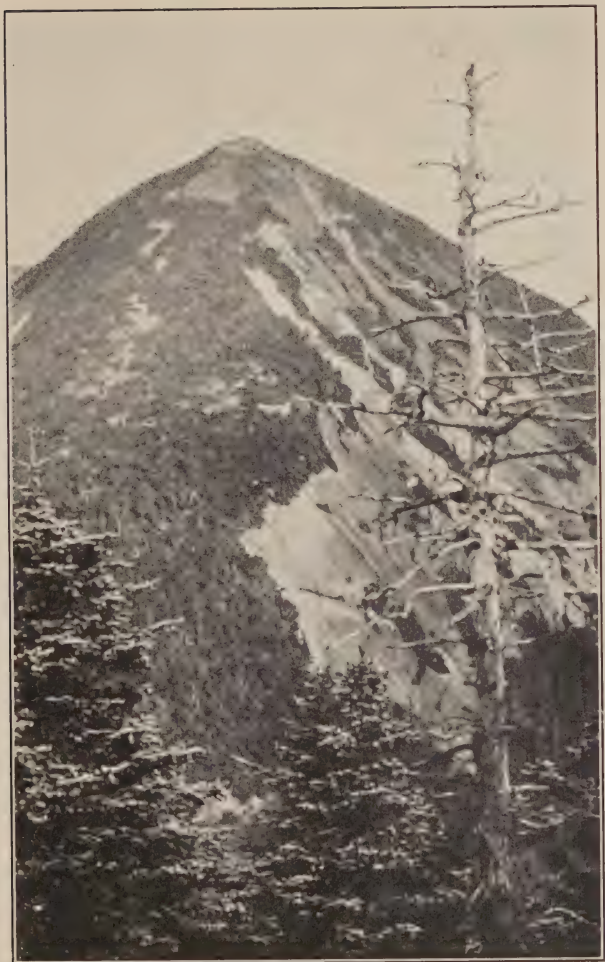
The succession of uplifts and periods of erosion that uncovered them and gave them their early form;

The slips of earth-crust that gave direction to mountain groups and to great valleys;

The well-marked period of uplift and erosion that resulted in recent topographic features;

And finally, the Ice Age, with its grinding and smoothing action and its bequest of the lakes that now dot the region.

The laying-down of the rock substance carries us back into a realm of mystery. Somewhere there was land, rising high above the primeval sea. We know that it existed because sediments that were washed down from it were later to be consolidated and altered into the very rock that you or I can see to-day at the summits of many Adirondack peaks. We know that the vanished land rose to substantial heights, or was elevated through a very long period, because the sands ground from it and carried out to sea, there to settle in slowly accumulating layers, finally reached a depth of many thousands of feet — the Grenville sediments, as they are termed. Geologists tell us that



THE WESTERLY SPUR OF THE GOTHICS FROM THE
TRAIL ON SADDLEBACK

this process occupied at least twenty-five or thirty million years, and possibly twice that time.

It is certain that the resulting rocks were derived from sediments deposited under water because these rocks contain quartzite, which originates in sandstone, and sandstone signifies deposits of sand. There are areas of marble, also, and marble is derived from limestone, which in turn originates in slow accumulations beneath water. Even more interesting are graphite beds, which tell unmistakably a story of organic matter — of plant life in existence far back in that remote period. Thus do the Adirondack summits turn back the pages of world history.

As to the location of the land that gave them of its own substance for their growth and being, one cannot even conjecture. It lay somewhere within a few hundreds of miles, no doubt, but whether to east or west, north or south, no one can say. As a recognizable mass it is gone. Its part in earth's drama is finished.

The layers of sediments that thus accumulated were not to rest undisturbed beneath the sea. Tremendous pressures coming from below presently forced up great masses of fluid rock which twisted the lower strata and in many places tore them asunder. The results of this were twofold. The Grenville layers were so pressed upon them-

selves as to become hardened and changed in their detailed structure. At the same time the fluid rock from below, when it lost its plasticity, became resistant masses — the labradorite and gabbro that after the lapse of the slow ages were to stand out as the summits of many of the highest Adirondacks.

Later the process was repeated. Other rock, far down in the earth-crust, so pressed as to be in a fluid state, found relief by up-pouring into the lower Grenville layers, there to solidify into the forms that we speak of as granite and syenite, which ages later were to stand out as the summit rock of various other mountains.

As yet none of these rock structures had reached the light of day. The sea rested upon layers that spread one upon another, thousands of feet in depth, and beneath all this mass lay the torn strata of Grenville with the intruding rocks that had poured up from below. The foundations and the substance of the future Adirondacks were laid. The next step in the process, the coming of changes and earth movements that were later to disclose these rocks and to carve them into mountains, was now at hand.

Slowly the bottom of the sea began to rise. It was not a movement that could have been perceived or measured if any one had been on hand

to observe it. Rather it was so deliberate that a tremendously long period, even as geologists reckon time, was required for its accomplishment. At some moment in the process the topmost layers reached the surface of the water -- and from that moment dates the birth of the great land mass that became the Adirondacks. Still ever so slowly this mass continued to rise until it stood well above the surrounding ocean, probably hundreds or perhaps thousands of feet above it.

As it thus rose another set of forces began to work. Erosion, infinitely patient but inexorable, began to gnaw at the layers of rock, slowly eating into the softer strata, gradually removing the rock substance, steadily transporting the loosened material back into the sea. The carving of the mountains had begun.

A succession of earth movements now followed. At times the Adirondack land gradually sank until the sea encroached deeply upon its margin. Again for long periods it rose. New areas made their appearance in other regions of this part of the globe. Each time that rock masses were elevated erosion took toll of them, and each time that the sea spread over submerged land great layers of rock were slowly laid down under the water.

Thus islands in the ocean, some of them as big as small continents, were born, lived their day, and

disappeared. But through all this series of changes the great island of the higher Adirondacks remained above the waves. Rock deposits and structures tell us that it was never again wholly submerged after that remote time when it first was raised into the light of day.

Early in this series of epochs a long continental mass, that the geologists term 'Appalachia,' rose from the ocean floor just east of our present North America. We can only guess where its easterly margin lay, but we know that from its westerly slopes streams carried into the sea vast amounts of eroded rock and deposited these in layers thousands of feet deep. We know that in course of time there was pressure from below that altered and elevated an area of these layers and thereby gave to the visible world the Taconic Mountains. This same process of elevation affected also the region of eastern New York, raising it higher above the waters and undoubtedly accelerating the carving of the mountains there.

The long mass of Appalachia persisted, but there were sinkings of the ocean floor to the west of it while the Silurian and the Devonian seas waxed and waned, each laying down its own deposits of rock substance from the rivers that poured into it. In the Devonian the strata were accumulated that presently were elevated to be-

come the Catskill Mountains, and some time in this vast cycle the long backbone of the Appalachian Mountain system became dry land.

The land mass that lay east of our present continent finally was so worn down and eaten away that it disappeared beneath the waves, leaving only its submerged foundation that now extends eastwardly as a continental shelf beneath the Atlantic. But through it all the highest of the Adirondacks kept their heads above water.

Some time in the cycle of earth-movements, events of another sort were taking place. The stresses to which the earth was subjected resulted in slips or shiftings of the crust. Where the rocks chanced to be weak or where the strains were greatest, strata were broken across and moved out of line. In some of the new land masses elsewhere these breaks or faults were continuous for long distances. In the Adirondacks they were short and discontinuous.

The effects of these faults were destined to be felt. As erosion pursued its steady attack the fractures became lines of weakness, where the rock framework had lost some of its power of resistance. Depressions along these lines became valleys and valleys deepened until they were giant troughs between adjacent mountains or ranges. Belts of unaltered strata, lying between lines of faults or

bordered by other weakened rock, resisted the gnawing forces and gradually were left as mountain ridges. If you will stand to-day on the Colvin Range you will have beneath your feet such a ridge while close by on the northwest you will look down into a long and narrow valley now occupied by the Ausable Lakes, the line of a big fault.

As the ages rolled on the time came for a fourth major element in the making of the Adirondacks. A period arrived when a vast area, corresponding to what is now the eastern part of our North American continent, reached the condition of a plain. Above this plain rose the Adirondacks and other mountain groups. A steady process of elevation now began — the ‘Cretaceous Uplift.’ Erosion was increased. Streams were quickened. The gnawing-away of rock and its transportation into the valleys and thence into the sea were accelerated.

The process was similar to periods that had preceded it, but with this difference: the mountain carving now taking place was the last of the series, up to our present time, and the work that it carried forward was to give the Adirondacks the essential features that we look upon to-day.

Just one other factor was to have its effect upon the topography of this region — a factor incapable of building mountains or tearing them down, but nevertheless responsible for extensive changes in

Adirondack scenery. This was the Ice Age, the comparatively recent period when a great ice cap overlay all this mountain area.

Gradually accumulating in the northeastern border of the North American continent the ice slowly advanced. Steadily but gradually it overspread the lowlands, filled the river valleys, surrounded the higher mountains and finally submerged even the tops of the highest. As it moved forward, bearing down upon the rocks with its great weight, and carrying in its lower surface fragments that had been caught and embedded there, it scoured and ground the exposed bed-rock. Summits were rounded. Ledges were polished. To this day you can see the planed-off surfaces.

In the lowlands the ice dropped untold tons of *débris*, spreading it out to depths of many feet, pushing it up in heaps and windrows, piling it up in dams across the valleys that followed the lines of faults, gouging out great depressions in the miles of material that it had strewn about. When at last it made its final retreat, it had accomplished a mission that to our eyes was to become a source of supreme beauty in the Adirondack region. Behind the dams streams were impounded until they overflowed the barriers. In depressions in the *débris* water accumulated until the hollows brimmed to overflowing. Thus the Adirondack

lakes were born. Ausable, Cascade, Placid, Saranac, Tupper, Blue — all owe their origin to the work of the Ice Age.

The centuries that have passed since the ice departed have seen the gaunt outlines of the mountains softened as an overlying soil has accumulated, their slopes clothed in garments of vegetation, the lakes at their feet rimmed with grasses and flowers and bordered with trees. Bit by bit the rock of ledge or summit still loses tiny grains from its substance in the inexorable process of time, and little by little the rivers carry their freight to the sea. But the mountains stand as they were builded and carved through the long ages, a tremendous record of earth history.

CHAPTER III

EARLY ADIRONDACK PATHFINDERS

WHEN Samuel de Champlain in 1609 proceeded south on the waters of the lake that later came to bear his name, he had upon either hand a tremendous wilderness. To the long line of mountains on his left he gave a name, 'Verdes Montes,' and to one of them, a rocky peak with striking contour, he applied the phrase 'Le Lion Couchant.' But for the heights ahead of him and on his right, their rugged outposts rising here and there in jumbled array, he proposed no name. They were a realm of mystery. And for many a year to come they remained unknown, so far as white explorers or settlers were concerned.

The Algonquin Indians, however, from whose tribes Champlain drew the guides and guards for his voyage, knew the valleys and water courses in this westerly wilderness as a summer hunting and trapping country. They knew them, too, as a scene of continual strife with other and hostile tribes, the Iroquois from the south, who also sought the region for its pelts and game.

Eventually it was a word from the Iroquois tongue that the whites adopted for the area and

especially for its mountains. The warlike and aggressive nations from the Mohawk were derisive of their enemies from the north woods. They jeered at them as a people who ate the bark of trees. In Iroquois 'to eat' is 'Ha-de-' and the word for 'trees' is 'Ga-ron-dah.' Thus the epithet, in shortened form, was 'Ha-de-ron-dah,' and in our English tongue we say it as 'Adirondack.'

The border of the region, along the lake on its east, was the scene of abundant fighting by whites as well as redskins. It was a great highway, and as such was a natural ground for dispute. As the borderland was occupied, however, the way gradually became open for venturesome souls to penetrate the big wilderness on the west, to follow its streams, thread its forests and look upon its lakes.

For a considerable period the lure of land grants was potent, as indeed has always been true in frontier regions the world over. There were great schemes of estates as big as kingdoms. Some of these materialized into vast holdings, sending surveyors across miles of forest to trace their boundaries, and drawing into their remote vastnesses men of substance as well as ambition, to view the new possessions.

Eight hundred thousand acres in one tract passed into private ownership in 1772 as the Totten and Crossfield Purchase. It included the



LOOKING TOWARD SADDLEBACK AND THE GOTHICS FROM BASIN MOUNTAIN

Raquette Lake and Long Lake regions, much land to the west of these, and still more to the east and southeast. The largest grant of all was the Macomb Purchase, negotiated in 1791 and involving a total area of more than three and a half million acres. Its lines blocked out an enormous region, extending from the Saranac Lakes northerly to the Canadian line, westwardly to Lake Ontario, along the border of that lake for many miles, and eastwardly from its lower margin for many more.

Following the early land grants the prospect that was to draw men into the Adirondack wilderness for a long period was that of mineral wealth. For fifty years there was more or less continual search for gold and silver. No large discoveries of precious metals were made, but of iron ore real deposits were found. The search for this metal did much to bring about exploration of these mountains.

Extensive beds of ore were discovered near Port Henry, and these became the foundation of a mining and manufacturing enterprise that is in operation in a large way to-day. Deposits were opened at Crown Point, at Chateaugay Lake, and on the Upper Ausable. But in its influence on exploration of the mountains, the discovery of the beds near the headwaters of the Hudson, a little way south of Indian Pass, and the long attempt to

develop these deposits into a commercial success, stands first in importance and interest.

The way to this development was paved by an earlier enterprise at North Elba. About 1800 iron was discovered there, and nine years later the Elba Iron and Steel Manufacturing Company bought water-power rights on the outlet of Lake Placid and attempted manufacture. Archibald MacIntyre, a substantial citizen of New York, was one of the prime movers. His brother-in-law, Malcolm McMartin, and others, were interested with him. The venture proved unsuccessful but the minds of the men associated in it were receptive to the thought of further and more workable discoveries.

Seventeen years later they were still on the lookout. Malcolm McMartin and his brother Duncan, MacIntyre's son John, his son-in-law David Henderson, and his nephew Dyer Thompson, were exploring near North Elba for minerals, precious or otherwise. As they were about to start for the woods one morning an Indian put in an appearance, opened his blanket, and showed them a piece of iron ore. Henderson details the ensuing conversation thus:

‘You want see ’em ore — me know ’em bed, all same’ — ‘Whereabouts did you find it?’ — ‘Me know — over mountain’ (pointing to the south-

west). — ‘Have you shown it to any white man?’ — ‘Yes, me shown him ore, no bed, but no white man go see it.’

Henderson and the others thought that the Indian looked honest. Since they were bound for the woods anyway, they concluded to take him along and see how his claims would pan out. They inquired his price for a journey with them, and agreed to his figure, ‘a dollar and a half and some tobacco’ — which the long chain of subsequent events proved cheap or dear, according to the way you look at it.

Their guide led them up the waters of the Ausable, and into the deep notch now known as Indian Pass. Night overtook them and they camped. In the morning they proceeded over a hill, came out on the Hudson, and there found the deposits.

The group who had viewed the orebed, together with Archibald MacIntyre, set about acquiring title to the region. The Indian who had bargained for a dollar and a half and some tobacco they took with them to Albany and persuaded to remain in their safe hands for a period. Before long patents had been issued. Other purchases presently added to the holdings, and in two or three years the proprietors felt that they were secure in ownership of practically all of the deposits.

Now began the long and difficult task of development and the equally tedious and trying undertaking of getting a road opened to the property. Little by little the works made progress. Ore was blocked out, buildings were erected, equipment was installed, workmen were secured. By and by the iron from this mine achieved a new record in American industrial history that is both impressive and surprising. A plant was erected in Jersey City by a newly organized Adirondack Iron and Steel Manufacturing Company, and in this plant the first steel ever produced in America was made from Adirondack iron. But the matter of adequate transportation from the mines steadily refused to be solved.

Meanwhile the owners of the mine and their friends were exploring the wilderness round about and making discoveries of much interest to us to-day. They made an expedition up the East River, which is the principal source of the Hudson, and came upon a place where the water made a plunge over a lofty cliff — Hanging Spear Falls. Surveyors running the lines of a further purchase to the northeast looked upon the majesty of Avalanche Lake and the impressive beauty of Lake Colden, as these two bodies of water came to be named. Especially noteworthy were the explorations of Dr. William C. Redfield, who visited the area in 1836

and 1837, and of Professor Ebenezer Emmons, who first came in 1837 and who, two years later, began extensive surveys.

Emmons was in charge of the survey of the Second Geologic District of New York, which included in its wide boundaries the region of the higher mountains. While his concern was chiefly with rock formations and mineral deposits, he was interested in the mountains for themselves and he studied them to such extent as was possible. With Professor F. N. Benedict, of the University of Vermont, and other associates he determined the heights of a few summits by barometric observations, and estimated the altitudes of ten or a dozen others.

One of the mountains visited by Emmons was Colden, then called McMartin. He was greatly interested in the cleft that is a striking feature of this peak as you view it across Avalanche Lake, and climbed the walls to a considerable height. A number of summits were named by Emmons, including Marcy, MacIntyre, McMartin or Colden, Seward, Henderson, and Dix.

Redfield, also, was a man of scientific attainments. He paid his first visit to the MacIntyre Iron Works in August, 1836, and was one of a party that set out to explore the East River. John Cheney, later famous as a guide, was with them.

Others were Henderson, MacIntyre, McMartin, and James Hall, who was at that time Assistant State Geologist for the northern district.

Penetrating beyond the East River Falls, which had been visited the previous year, they came on the second day to the outlet of Lake Colden, which they were the first men to describe. Here they camped. The next day Redfield and Henderson started up Opalescent River, following it past the rocky flume to a point that they estimated as two miles distant from the lake. They turned back here, but before they did so Redfield climbed a ridge and from the summit saw a high mountain. It was the first near-by view that any one had ever enjoyed of Mount Marcy.

Redfield came back the next summer bent on seeing more of his newly discovered 'high peak of Essex.' Setting out with a party of companions and woodsmen he again camped at Lake Colden. The following morning they started up along the Opalescent and when about three miles from the lake they arrived at a spot that they termed the 'North Elbow,' where the course of the valley that they were following changed to the northeast, while a branch stream came in from the south-south-west. Holding to the Opalescent they passed successive branches from the southeast and from the north, and when six miles from the lake they paused for the night.

The next day they climbed to the pass on the northeast side of the summit, scrambled on up through tangled, dwarf evergreens, and at ten o'clock in the morning, August 5, 1837, reached the top, the first party to ascend New York's highest peak. Their return to Lake Colden was over different ground, in part at least, from that traversed in ascending, but the exact route is not stated. Redfield describes it simply as 'more direct and far steeper.'

Three days later they left the lake and climbed to the top of Mount MacIntyre, following a route that led them 'through a steep ravine, by which a small stream is discharged into Lake Colden.' They reached the summit at one o'clock. Going on down on the farther side they camped near the foot of the mountain. The following day they proceeded through Indian Pass, which Redfield termed 'the Great Notch,' and continued on down to the iron works.

About 1850 the iron works reached its maximum development. A document is in existence that lists the items of buildings and other improvements, as they stood in 1854. It is too long to quote here, but it is an astonishing array, when one thinks of the wilderness as it is now. There were four furnaces, large and small, a stamping-mill, a sawmill, a gristmill, a schoolhouse, sixteen cottages, a large

boarding-house, and much else. There was a dam, seventeen hundred feet long, across the Hudson ten miles below the works.

Two years later floods carried away both the dam at the works and the large one below. This seems to have been the last straw. Shortly afterward the fires in the furnace were allowed to go out and the making of iron came to an end. In only a few years the woods began to claim the one-time active village at the ore beds.

In 1913 and 1914 the old mines resumed activity and shipments of ore, taken out for experimental purposes, journeyed by truck to the furnaces at Port Henry. The tests were successful, and showed that the ore could be handled under modern furnace methods. But the cost of railway construction stood in the way.

Since 1877 the holdings of forest, stream, and mountain have been a preserve, at first under lease to the Adirondack Club, and later to its successor, the Tahawus Club. The early explorations for minerals and estate boundaries have been succeeded by the search for the beauties of mountain peak and pass and the pursuit of fish and game.

CHAPTER IV

THE COLVIN SURVEY AND THE ADIRONDACK STATE PARK

THE most interesting and in some ways the most important explorations made in the Adirondacks were those carried out under the direction of Verplanck Colvin, beginning in 1872. Prior to that time the available information concerning much of the region was hazy at best. The real location of prominent mountains was only guessed at. Their height was a matter of speculation. Mount Marcy was set down on the maps at a point that was proved by later events to be several miles distant from its actual location.

To this chaos came Colvin with an intense love for the wilderness, a deep impatience with the insufficiencies of existing maps, a tremendous native energy, and the zeal of an explorer. For nearly thirty years he spent his time in measuring and mapping the Adirondack Mountains, streams, and lakes.

He was an interesting character, with all the fervor and the faults of a crusader. His father, Andrew James Colvin, was a lawyer, and the son read law for a time in the father's office. But he

was ill-fitted for work of that sort, gave it up presently, and studied civil engineering, with geology and kindred subjects. Before he was twenty years old he was making expeditions into the Adirondack woods, surveying as he went and drawing his own maps.

In 1868, when he was twenty-one, he pointed out in a public talk that he gave at Lake Pleasant the value of the Adirondack region as a forest preserve, and he proposed that it be acquired as a State park. In 1872 the State Assembly agreed to give thought to the idea, and to that end it provided for the creation of a State Park Commission to study the problem and to report. Colvin, who was then twenty-five years old, was made secretary. The Commission reported and the assembly voted funds for a topographic survey. Colvin thereupon became superintendent, and in a short time began the explorations that were to disclose a wealth of information of interest to all lovers of the mountains to-day.

As primary observation points he selected four summits, and in the course of the first year he ascended each of these, sunk a copper bolt in the rock at the top, and began measuring and recording the angles to other landmarks. These four primary points were Mount Marcy, Mount Whiteface, Owl's Head near Long Lake, and Bald Peak



A GLIMPSE OF THE GREAT RANGE FROM THE UPPER AUSABLE LAKE

near Lake Champlain. In addition to these four many others were ascended and observations made.

The explorations of the year began at Lake Pleasant in Hamilton County. It was the general plan to move forward to the highest mountains and thence in an easterly direction to Lake Champlain. At the outset two mountains were ascended and measured that did not at that time appear on any maps. The first of these was Speculator, and the second was Snowy.

After some days they proceeded to Crane Mountain, which Colvin had thought to use as one of his primary observation points though he later abandoned this idea. Their climb up the steep flanks of Crane they found a rough undertaking. When they got back their barometers were out of order and it became necessary to interrupt the survey in order to visit instrument-makers at Albany.

Back in the field once more they began observations on the Lake Champlain side of the mountains. Two summits near Port Henry were measured, Bald Mountain on the south and Bald Peak on the north. Mount Whiteface came next, a summit that Colvin had climbed in 1869. The head of the survey now spent two days on its summit, measuring angles to many other peaks visible from its high and isolated crown. His observations gave its altitude as 4954 feet.

Proceeding to Indian Pass they explored Wall-face Mountain and measured the height of its great precipice with barometers, fixing it at 1319 feet. Continuing to the old Adirondack Iron Works, they proceeded up the valley to Lake Colden. By this time it was nearly mid-September and the weather was stormy and suggestive of winter. While they waited for clearing skies they cut down a cedar tree and hewed out a canoe for use in mapping the lake.

The next day was characteristic of other days that followed through the rest of the season and through part of the next year. It was September 14th and a cold storm was in progress. Nevertheless Colvin marshaled his men, loaded up with the heavy and cumbersome instruments, took along one day's supply of food as the limit in that direction because of the load of baggage, and in the face of the storm set out for the summit of Mount Marcy in the hope of securing observations. As will be expected, the storm grew worse as they ascended. It was late afternoon when they finally reached the summit cone, and in the driving fog and rain they could neither see nor set up an instrument. Furthermore, they were suffering from the cold.

Colvin led the party down into Panther Gorge, on the farther side of the mountain, where he had

camped the year before. They paused at a level spot and tried to make camp, but their fingers were so stiff with cold that they could not set up their tents. Finally they made their way to the bark huts that they had erected on their earlier visit, built a fire, and in due time thawed out and dried off.

The following day was brilliantly clear. Climbing back to the summit of Marcy they set up the instruments and made observations all day. With much measuring still to be done they remained on the mountain that night and continued observations the following morning until another storm blotted out the surrounding country. Keeping one guide with him Colvin sent the rest of the party back to Lake Colden, which it may be presumed they were glad to reach, since they had now been out three days in difficult going with only one day's supply of food. Colvin and his guide visited the spur of Marcy that is known as Gray Peak, a rough and wet trip, and then proceeded to Lake Tear-of-the-Clouds. They followed the outlet down its precipitous course to its junction with the Opalescent River, which they reached at dark, and in the blackness descended the Opalescent to Lake Colden.

In somewhat similar fashion they next ascended Mount Colden, visited the summit of Santanoni,

and climbed Mount Seward. Proceeding to the Long Lake region they made a series of observations from Owl's Head. After a few days' exploration to the west they returned to Albany.

The report of the year's work was published in March, 1873, as Senate Document No. 53. It is an exceptionally interesting narrative.

In July of the following year Colvin was again in the field with a surveying party. Some time was occupied in establishing a satisfactory base line at Lake Champlain, and in observations from Hurricane Mountain. They returned to Albany to outfit and then journeyed to Keene Valley, beginning there a strenuous series of climbs and explorations, full of adventures.

Their first mountain on this expedition was the Giant. Their route to it lay by way of Hopkins Peak, the summit of which they reached at twelve-thirty. Observations kept them occupied there until three-thirty, and it was not until that late hour that they set out for the top of the larger, neighboring mountain. At seven o'clock that evening they gained the summit, made their barometric observations, and at sunset started down. The results can be imagined. At one o'clock in the morning they emerged upon the highway.

Three days later they left for Hunter's Pass. From the pass the next day they ascended Dix and

remained on the summit, recording angles, until sunset. An attempt to make their way down in darkness came to an end when they found themselves on cliffs and balked by empty space in front and on either hand. They camped there and finished the return the following morning. Nipple-top came next, and then Colvin, which had never before been ascended.

Proceeding by way of the Ausable Lakes they next attacked Mount Marcy, and with a clear day to help out they made observations on the height of various mountains as they ascended. Their instruments showed that several summits that had been credited with altitudes in excess of five thousand feet were really less than that in height.

From their camp in Panther Gorge they twice ascended Haystack, the first day balked by clouds, but the second day favored by clear weather. From this point they measured Basin and the Gothics. None of these three mountains had been included in maps published up to that time. The next day they again made a trip from their camp in Panther Gorge, this time climbing Skylight, the first recorded ascent of that mountain. Once more ascending Marcy they proceeded down the farther side of the mountain and made camp at Lake Colden. Several ascents of MacIntyre followed, the last one ending in a return by night. After

explorations in the lake region and an expedition to Blue Mountain they returned to Albany.

In October they were back in the wilderness once more. Three days were spent in a trip to the summit of Ampersand, hampered by much bad weather. For the next month Colvin was at work in the lake region, continuing until the coming of winter put a stop to his programme.

As in the previous year the narrative of the survey was set forth in a report, Senate Document No. 98.

In 1874 there was no field work on the survey. In 1875 it was resumed, and interesting results were secured. A line of levels was run, step by step, all the way from Lake Champlain to the summit of Mount Marcy. This involved forty miles of leveling and required about eight hundred stations. Early in October Colvin and two guides made a trip over the Gothics. In November they explored the pass between Mount Redfield and Cliff Mountain.

Blue Mountain came in for a share of attention in the work of 1876. Saint Regis Mountain was occupied and made an important observation station. After a journey down the Fulton chain of Lakes Bald Mountain or Rondaxe was ascended and here again a station was established.

In 1877 triangulation was carried out on Noon-

mark, on Basin Mountain, and on Poke-o-Moonshine. New towers were built on Whiteface, Hurricane, Saint Regis, Poke-o-Moonshine, and Marcy. The line of levels that began at Lake Champlain was extended around the northerly side of the high mountains and south to the region of the Beaver River.

In the following year triangulation points were occupied on the summits of Pharaoh Mountain and the Giant. The line of levels was at last completed, connecting with the survey that had been pushed forward from the southerly side of the mountains. A branch line was carried to the summit of Whiteface Mountain, and another to the top of Saint Regis.

The work from this time on was largely devoted to determination of boundaries and similar matters connected with public lands. An official 'State Land Survey' was created by the State Legislature in 1883.

Events of outstanding significance and interest were soon to follow, however. In 1885 the Legislature passed an act creating a Forest Commission and establishing a Forest Preserve in the Adirondack region. The act of 1883 setting up a Land Survey had specified that there should be no sale of State lands in the Adirondacks. The new act provided essentially that all the lands then owned by

the State or afterwards acquired by it in certain counties should become a public preserve and that they should be kept as wild forest lands which should not be sold or leased.

Within a few years thereafter Colvin's suggestion of a State Park, first offered in 1868 and repeatedly urged by him in subsequent years, began to take concrete form. In 1890 Governor Hill sent a message to the Legislature urging consideration of the possibility of such a park. Finally in 1892 the plan reached the point of enactment and the Adirondack Park was formally established. Three years later the integrity of the State holdings was safeguarded by a constitutional amendment.

Year by year the State began to acquire the forests and with them the mountains and valleys of the new park. The first direct appropriation for purchase of forest lands was made in 1890. Subsequent years saw further and larger sums provided.

Changes in administration took place. A State Conservation Commission was created in 1911 and this was somewhat altered four years later when provision was made for a single Commissioner.

In 1916 a bond issue was approved by which \$7,500,000 became available for the purchase of lands in the Adirondack Preserve. With this money a carefully planned programme of acquisition became possible, and the State's holdings

within the Adirondack Park as well as its parcels within the larger area defined by the limits of the Forest Preserve, steadily increased.

By act of the Legislature of 1925 a further bond issue was proposed and later was ratified, through which further Adirondack and Catskill purchases to the amount of \$5,000,000 became possible. Acquisitions under this measure began with the year 1926. With the beginning of 1927 a State Conservation Department succeeded the Conservation Commission and assumed additional responsibilities beyond those formerly carried. No change was made in policies as to public lands.

At the beginning of 1927 out of a total of approximately 3,313,500 acres within the boundaries of the State Park about 1,578,000 acres had been taken over by the State. Of the remainder, 500,000 acres represent large private preserves, within most of which policies of conservation are well recognized.

CHAPTER V

TRAIL-BUILDING IN THE ADIRONDACKS

ONLY a few of the routes to Adirondack peaks date back to early years. In some degree the area shared in the rise of interest in mountain summits that took place in New England in the fifties and the two or three decades that followed, but the extent of this interest in the Adirondacks, as evidenced by trail-building, was not as great as it was in the White Mountains or in some parts of the mountains of Vermont.

There were no trails to the summits in the central Adirondack group when Redmond and his party made their historic ascent of Marcy in 1837. Before Colvin began his explorations, in 1865, however, ways had been found by which some mountain-tops here and there had been placed within reach. Most of these were no more than mere routes, to be followed under the guidance of a woodsman who knew the way. A few were paths.

Thus, when Alfred B. Street visited Whiteface in 1868, there was a path that led nearly to the top of the mountain, approaching it from the east. Street indeed spoke of it as a 'road,' though from



CLIFFS OF SADDLEBACK, FROM THE COL BETWEEN SADDLEBACK AND BASIN

his description of it the designation appears to have been an exaggeration. By this time, also, there was a trail up Marcy from the old iron works, and there was another from the region of the Ausable Lakes.

The man who really began trail-building as a definite undertaking, and carried it along until many miles had been opened for trampers, was Henry van Hoevenberg, who came to visit the mountains in 1877. Van Hoevenberg and his party camped on the Upper Ausable Lake and from that point climbed Marcy. In the group was his fiancée, Miss Josephine Scofield. These two looked down from Marcy upon Heart Lake and its surrounding forests and determined that they would return to spend their lives there. Miss Scofield did not live to help make the dream a reality, but the man that she was to have married came back the next year to buy the lake and its wooded setting, to build a great log lodge that was to shelter many a trumper, and to lay out and clear fifty miles or more of mountain foot-paths.

The lodge was unique for its day as a wilderness building. It stood three stories high and had a tower that rose to seventy feet. One of the trails that began at its grounds led to the summit of Marcy — a route that has ever since been known by the name of the man who put it through.

Twenty-three years after the lodge was opened to the public it was burned in the forest fires of 1903 that swept the whole region. Three years before that the Lake Placid Club had purchased the property, making Van Hoevenberg manager.

The subsequent history of trail-building in that area is that of the Adirondack Camp and Trail Club and its successor, the Camp and Trail Club. The former was organized in 1910, its principal sponsors and active spirits being Van Hoevenberg, Godfrey Dewey, and Edward A. Woods. Its territory was the general region of which Lake Placid is the center. In this territory it maintained existing trails, opened new routes, and built shelters for trampers. In all of this the Lake Placid Club bore a substantial part of the burden.

A few years ago the Camp and Trail Club, a subsidiary of the Lake Placid Club, succeeded the original organization. It has continued the work that was in progress, is maintaining the trails under its jurisdiction and is extending the chain of lean-tos. Since its organization it has built thirteen shelters, most of them on State land and freely accessible to the public. More than half of these have been made possible through the generosity of the club's president, Edward A. Woods. At Heart Lake it is providing for trampers a place where they may camp, either in comfortable lean-tos or

in tents, where supplies may be obtained, and from which interesting expeditions may be made. Recently at this same spot, under the direction of the Lake Placid Club, a splendid new lodge has been built, where trampers may find comfort and welcome.

Meanwhile important developments were taking place elsewhere in the Adirondacks. Other regions were opening routes to the summits of splendid mountains and were offering the hospitality of the convenient log lean-to.

One of the most attractive centers is that of Keene Valley. Beginning a short distance from the village the holdings of the Ausable Club sweep for several miles over valleys, lakes, and mountains. The Adirondack Mountain Reserve is the formal name of the organization that owns this beautiful section, and for some years the Reserve itself maintained trails on its property. About 1907 a number of men who were interested in the Reserve and its region set up the Adirondack Trail Improvement Society, which took over the work of trail maintenance. In part the paths thus kept in order are on Club property, but in part they lie outside. They include approaches to Giant, Dix, Noonmark, Colvin, the Gothics, Saddleback, Basin, Haystack, and one side of Marcy, as well as some connecting links.

The year 1920 saw the beginning of the extensive work of the State Conservation Commission, now the Conservation Department, in providing trails and shelters. In February of that year the question of a system of through trails was brought up for discussion at a meeting of the district forest rangers employed under the Commission's direction. There were many old tote-roads and paths that the rangers knew, and it was proposed to link these together in a few trunk-line routes. The use of disc markers to indicate the Commission's trails was decided on.

That year the Legislature made an appropriation of twenty-five hundred dollars for construction of trails and laying out camp sites, and with this money the programme was started. Although no additional appropriation was made for the year 1921, by 1922 approximately three hundred and fifty miles of trail had been made passable, and more than one hundred miles of this had been marked. This provided the principal links in the proposed chain.

In the following years the routes thus opened were gradually improved and extensions were made to render accessible further areas within the Park. Since the State maintains forest-fire observers on many summits, trails to these stations are a ready means of access to some of the most attractive of

Adirondack peaks. These paths have now been well cleared and have been marked with small discs attached to trees. Signs have been placed at the highway or other public place where the trail starts. On a number of summits the observer in charge has taken pride in making many improvements to render climbing easier. On all of them steel observation towers enable the visitor to enjoy a clear view in all directions.

While trail-building and improvement has been going on, construction of open camps for the tramper has proceeded. The type of shelter adopted is that of a lean-to, with a fireplace in front — a sufficiently adequate shelter in time of storm, and one that can easily be made inviting with a log fire.

A third activity of the Conservation Department is of interest to many trampers and mountain-climbers. This is the laying-out and maintaining of public camp sites near highways. There are now many such sites. They are provided with fireplaces, and some of the larger ones recently opened have a supply of spring water piped to the grounds. A circular issued by the Department tells where they are situated.

One of the most important and interesting developments in trail-building was the organization of the Adirondack Mountain Club in 1922. As has

been noted, a local club had been in existence for a number of years, opening and maintaining paths in the region near Lake Placid, and similar activities centered at Keene Valley. But there was no voluntary organization planning for the region as a whole in the way in which the Appalachian Mountain Club serves the White Mountains or the Green Mountain Club those of Vermont.

A preliminary meeting was called in December, 1921, by Meade C. Dobson, formerly secretary of the Palisades Interstate Park Trail Conference. About forty persons were present. A fund was raised and an organization committee was named.

Permanent organization of the new club was completed April 3, 1922, and the following were elected the first officers: George D. Pratt, president; Meade C. Dobson, vice-president; Marshall McLean, vice-president; Richard M. Jesup, vice-president; J. Ashton Allis, treasurer; Raymond H. Torrey, recording secretary; Thomas C. Stowell, corresponding secretary.

Headquarters for the club were established in Albany. Provision was made for organizing chapters, and before the first year was finished groups in both Albany and New York City had effected chapter organization. Steady growth has followed.

It is of course by its accomplishments in the mountains that the influence and value of the club

are to be judged. These have been noteworthy. In the first year of its existence it undertook to lay out a trunk-line trail all the way from the southern boundary of the Adirondack region to its northern margin. Under the direction of William G. Howard, of the Conservation Commission staff, the new trail was put through, beginning at Northville on the south and extending to Lake Placid on the north, a distance of one hundred and thirty-five miles through the midst of the Adirondack wilderness.

Other and shorter trails were built. A route was opened from Seventh Lake over the top of Black Bear Mountain and down to Fourth Lake. A trail was cleared through Algonquin Pass, connecting Lake Colden with Indian Pass. Big Slide Mountain was made accessible by a trail leading from John's Brook. Additional shelters were constructed.

Beginning in 1923 plans were laid for a lodge, to be built and maintained by the club, for the use of trampers. A parcel of land in John's Brook Valley was presented to the club by J. and J. Rogers Company. The following year the project was financed and building was begun; and in 1925, on July 4, the lodge was opened to the public.

Situated about five miles from Keene Valley on the John's Brook trail to Marcy, and within mod-

erate tramping distance of the peaks that form the most notable chain of high summits in these mountains, the lodge is in a strategic position. Its big living-room and its comfortable bunk-rooms are hospitable and friendly. From it Marcy may be climbed in a moderate circuit of a single day.

Thus in recent years a web of trails has been spun across a part of the Adirondack wilderness. Many peaks are as yet untouched. Of the forty-odd mountains in the Adirondack area that are more than four thousand feet high a large number are still without path of any kind. There is much virgin territory for the man who wishes to go beyond the reach of a cleared route. But for the great body of trampers the boon of marked trails now offers the possibility of enjoyment of a beautiful mountain wilderness.

CHAPTER VI

MOUNT MARCY

THE MOUNTAIN AND ITS VIEW

IN the midst of the higher peaks of the Adirondacks rises the highest of all, Mount Marcy, its crest 5344 feet above sea level. Its upper slopes extend beyond the limit of real forest growth, and thus its crown lies in that interesting region where even the twisted scrub falters. On one side its flanks fall away into the depths of Panther Gorge. From its summit come tiny streams that soon unite and go tumbling down the slopes to become a part of the headwaters of the Hudson.

The view from the crest of this peak is one of summit after summit, sometimes in orderly line, but often in confused masses. Because of the fact that it is the highest in the whole Adirondack group it looks up to no other mountain and it gives to all that lie about it an appearance of lesser values. This is the penalty of its height, a characteristic that it shares with the crowning summit in any range or group of mountains.

It is surprising to learn that essentially nothing was known of Mount Marcy until the year 1837.

In that year W. C. Redfield and Professor Ebenezer Emmons, with a group of companions and guides, made their historic first ascent. Redfield had become interested in the mountain in 1836 when he saw it from the south in the course of a journey to the Adirondack Iron Works. He wrote of it as 'the High Peak of Essex,' and he determined to make its further acquaintance. Opportunity came the following season, when he again visited the iron works in company with other scientists.

The trip to the mountain was made by way of Lake Colden, and the route followed to the summit lay along the valley of the Opalescent River to the high plateau that lies at the foot of the cone of Marcy on its north side. Thence the course was south, as directly to the summit as the scrub and the rocks would allow. Mount Marcy was given its name by Professor Emmons at the time of this ascent. The name was bestowed in honor of Governor William Learned Marcy who was at that time chief executive of New York.

Several years after the visit of Redfield and Emmons, Marcy was climbed from Elk Lake by that interesting character, Orson Schofield Phelps, known to many visitors in Keene Valley as 'Old Mountain Phelps.' His first visit was in 1849. In the years that followed he made many trips to its



THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT MARCY, ACROSS PANTHER
GORGE

summit, which he came to look upon almost as a personal possession. The early trips appear to have been made without any definite route, but about 1861 he cut a trail from a point near the inlet of the Lower Ausable Lake to the summit. The present route from the foot of Panther Gorge came into being in 1873 when Verplanck Colvin was at work on the Adirondack Survey. The first ascent of the mountain by women was made under the guidance of Old Mountain Phelps, about 1859.

In the sixties Alfred B. Street wrote of his ascent of Marcy, which he climbed by way of the Opalescent River. He speaks of the route as a trail, and therefore there must have been a definite line of approach from that side of the mountain by that time. The route that he followed did not, however, make use of the valley of Feldspar Brook.

Soon afterward Verplanck Colvin began his explorations in the Adirondack wilderness as director of the newly authorized topographic survey of New York's great mountain region. Colvin climbed the mountain many times, both from the southeast and from the west. The first visit of his party was made in September, 1872. On the 14th they climbed to the top of the mountain by way of the Opalescent, but were compelled to continue on down into Panther Gorge because of wicked weather. On the 15th they returned to the sum-

mit and spent the whole day in observations — the first time that accurate records had been made from the top of the mountain.

September 16, Colvin and a guide visited the area around Lake Tear-of-the-Clouds, up to that time unnamed and unexplored. Colvin himself, in his notes of that day, used the phrase that gave its name to this elevated body of water, high up beneath the cone of Marcy.

Panther Gorge was first described in print in 1868 by Street in his book that gives the narrative of his extended trip through the wilderness. Others before that had seen it, however, for Old Mountain Phelps had been paying visits to Marcy by way of this side of the mountain for many years. The Gorge is really an awe-inspiring, rock-walled, mountain chasm.

One of the most interesting expeditions ever made to Marcy was that which the topographic survey began the first day of October, 1875, when they started to run a line of levels from Lake Champlain at Westport to the top of the mountain. The purpose was to determine the height of the peak by actual measurement, and thus to have a point of accurately known altitude from which the height of other summits could be closely computed.

The date when the work began was late enough

to promise difficulty, as any one who knows Adirondack weather will agree. At the start, with the route following highways, the leveling made rapid progress. In less than two weeks the line had been carried to the woods lying above Keene Valley, in the direction of the Ausable Lakes. Here the undertaking proved to be more laborious, but on the 15th of October the outlet of Lower Ausable Lake was reached.

Continuing along the rocky and almost impossible shore of the lower lake, and thence around the margin of the upper lake, the party finally reached the forested area along Marcy Brook. By this time, however, the end of October was at hand and winter was imminent.

The evening of October 27 snow lay eight inches deep. More snow came, and with it temperatures well toward zero. But on the 1st of November the surveyors had reached the col between Marcy and Skylight and a line of levels was run to the shore of Lake Tear-of-the-Clouds.

A day was lost because of a violent storm. When the sunlight came again, and the wind dropped, a heavy snow was deeply drifted and such bare rocks as thrust up through it carried a coating of ice. The survey was pushed ahead, nevertheless, and on the 3d of November reached the margin of scrub timber.

The 4th of November the barometers promised another storm on the way. It was a case of finishing the work that day or of giving up the enterprise and waiting until another season. The men climbed the mountain early from their camp in Panther Gorge and proceeded with their measurements through snow and over slippery rocks. At ten-thirty in the morning they reached a point level with the summit of Mount MacIntyre and thus determined the altitude of that peak at 5112 feet above sea level.

The wind began to rise as the approaching storm drew nearer. About noon a fog of frost crystals began to blow across the mountain. No pause was made for the noon hour and no time taken out for lunch. The guides were kept busy chiseling bench marks in the rock in order to make a permanent record of the route followed. The day was rapidly coming to a close, and gathering dusk was descending, but the summit was just ahead. Finally at ten minutes of five Colvin set up his level within a few feet of the crest of the mountain and made his last observation on the rod, which now rested on a bolt set in the summit rock. The measurements were complete and the altitude of the mountain was determined as 5344.311 feet above sea level.

In more recent years Marcy played a part in incidents leading up to an event of national signifi-

cance. In September, 1901, President McKinley was the victim of an attempted assassination. After he was believed to be out of danger, Vice-President Roosevelt went to the Tahawus Club, at Lake Sanford, for a visit with his family. On the 12th of September he was a member of a group of men camped on the shore of Lake Colden, on their way to the summit of Marcy. On the morning of the 13th he and three men of the party, together with a guide, climbed the mountain by way of the Opalescent and Feldspar trail, spending a short time on the summit, and then descended to the col between Skylight and Marcy, where they ate their lunch. While they were there a guide from the club arrived with a message which stated that unfavorable developments had taken place in President McKinley's condition. The party left at once for the clubhouse, which they reached a little after five. Late that evening further word arrived stating that President McKinley was failing rapidly.

Soon after midnight Colonel Roosevelt started for the railway station at North Creek, about forty miles distant. The roads were not in good condition and this was before the days of motor cars. Three relays of horses were used to make the trip, which was completed before five o'clock in the morning. A special train had been made ready at

North Creek to hurry the Vice-President toward Buffalo, where President McKinley lay.

While the Vice-President was on his way to North Creek the end came to the President and therefore Colonel Roosevelt became leader of the Nation while on his return journey and while still in the Adirondack wilderness. A tablet beside the highway marks the approximate spot that he was passing when President McKinley died.

The plants that grow on the crest of Marcy are exceedingly interesting. Stunted and scrubby balsams grow high up on the cone, but the continuous forest cover ceases at altitudes varying from 4300 to 4900 feet. Beyond that point there are scattering, wind-tortured trees, but for the most part there is open rock, with low-growing plants in the crevices.

This region beyond continuous forest growth is one of sub-Alpine character. Some of the species of plants that grow there are essentially Arctic. Wherever there is enough moisture in the gritty soil the Alpine sandwort grows in abundance, its white flowers on their short, slender stems fairly covering patches of ground. In the spring the Lapland rosebay displays its characteristic blossoms, essentially azalea-like in form and a beautiful dull rose in color. Soon after the snow disappears the *Diapensia*, a typical plant of high altitudes, with

white blossoms on compact cushions of heathy leaves, is in evidence. A species of goldenrod that is found on many Adirondack summits at altitudes above four thousand feet is abundant on the cone of Marcy. Other plants of the high places are the crowberry, the creeping snowberry, and a little dwarf birch.

Not many specimens of animal life will ordinarily be seen in the open near the summit of Marcy, though in the cover of the scrub timber various species can be found by those who will look for them. Where the trees offer protection the snowshoe rabbit is common. While camping at the shelter near Lake Tear-of-the-Clouds, I have watched one of these interesting animals come repeatedly to the space directly in front of the lean-to and nibble at remnants of food that some one had thrown there. It seemed unafraid and almost domesticated.

THE VIEW FROM MARCY

The view from the summit of Mount Marcy is, first of all, a panorama of very wide sweep. Because of the fact that Marcy rises highest of all, and because of the great number of summits that can be seen from it, the view in general is one of much complexity and is well characterized by the phrase 'a sea of summits.' In the quality of

grandeur the best part of the view is that comprised within the semicircle from the line of the Great Range on the east, around over the southeast and the southwest, to Santanoni, Seward, and Mac-Intyre on the west.

To the north one looks over forested slopes and lesser summits to Lake Placid, about fifteen miles distant. Behind the lake is the ridge that rises in Mount McKenzie and Moose Mountain. To the right of the lake is the striking cone of Mount Whiteface. The Sentinel Range, somewhat nearer, cuts off the lower slopes of Whiteface and gives way immediately on its right to Pitchoff, Cascade, Porter, and Big Slide, in the order named, the latter with an abrupt summit. Again, to the right, looking down the valley of John's Brook, one can see a part of Lake Champlain thirty-five miles away. Sometimes the city of Burlington can be made out, on the farther shore of the lake and distant about forty-three miles in an air line. The Jay Range lies nineteen miles away over the left-hand slopes that lead down to John's Brook.

The Great Range of the Adirondacks is on the right of John's Brook Valley. Nearest is Mount Haystack, the summit of which is a mile and a half distant, across the depths of Panther Gorge. From Marcy, Haystack appears like a broad, inverted V, with a shallow notch and a lesser V to the left of

the summit, this minor height being Little Haystack. Basin Mountain stands out to the left of Haystack, while behind it and a little to the right are the slide-covered slopes of the Gothics. Behind these again and to the left are the Wolf Jaws. The westerly peak of Saddleback Mountain is visible to the left of Basin. To the right of Basin are the Sawteeth that lie above the Lower Ausable Lake. Much farther back and practically in line with the Gothics is the Giant, eleven miles away, with Rocky Peak Ridge on its right and Spread Eagle on its left. Between the Sawteeth and the Gothics the low, sharp peak of Noonmark is in sight.

Along the eastern horizon beyond Lake Champlain the axis range of the Green Mountains is in view — a long succession of summits from Mansfield in the north well down to the peaks around Killington in the south.

Just to the left of the summit of Haystack the long ridge of Mount Colvin crosses the view, with Nippletop rising a little higher and just behind it, and Dix behind Nippletop. To the right of Haystack's summit a further section of the Colvin Range is in view, beyond the Upper Ausable Lake, while behind it and four miles farther away is McComb.

Slightly more to the right one looks down into a

forested flat and can see the waters of Elk Lake, eight miles away. Almost in line with the right-hand margin of Elk Lake the cone of Pharaoh Mountain may be made out, if the air is clear enough. It is about twenty-four miles distant. Just to the right of Pharaoh and sixteen miles still farther away is Black Mountain, which lies beyond Lake George.

The slopes on the right of the flat in which Elk Lake lies lead up to Boreas Mountain. Again to the right and very close at hand is Mount Skylight, its summit approximately a mile away. Behind it is Allen Mountain, while to the right of it is Redfield. Well up on Redfield there is a little green-bordered pool known as Moss Pond. A little more to the right and much nearer is Lake Tear-of-the-Clouds. Over a part of Redfield one can see Vanderwhacker Mountain, seventeen miles away and standing somewhat alone. On its right a clear day will sometimes disclose Snowy Mountain, thirty-six miles distant. Just to the left of Skylight it is possible to distinguish Crane Mountain, about thirty-eight miles away.

A group of mountains nearer at hand now follow in a westerly direction. Beyond the valley that drops off to the right of Mount Redfield rises Cliff Mountain. Slightly to the left of the latter, and two and a half miles farther away, is Mount

Adams. To the right of Adams and eleven miles distant is the long mass of Santanoni, with Panther Peak rising at its right end. Over the left slopes of Santanoni is Owl's Head, beyond Long Lake, a little more than thirty miles away. A little to the left is Blue Mountain, twenty-nine miles distant. On Santanoni's right is the long ridge of the Seward Range.

Now the view again picks up the mountains nearer at hand. Mount Colden is close by, its peak a little more than two miles distant. Behind it is the MacIntyre Range, standing out prominently. Mount Morris is visible over the Seward Range, about fourteen miles farther toward the horizon. To the right of the highest point of the MacIntyre Range one can see the waters of the Lower Saranac Lake, about twenty miles distant, while over them and ten miles farther away is Saint Regis Mountain. The view then swings around to the right to Lake Placid.

CHAPTER VII

MOUNT MARCY

TRAILS TO THE SUMMIT

A ready means of access to the summit of Marcy is from John's Brook Lodge, which is reached by a walk of $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the end of a road above Keene Valley. Round trip, Lodge to summit and return, $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles. From Adirondack Lodge on the north, round trip, 15 miles. Other and beautiful trails by Avalanche Pass, Lake Colden, Indian Pass, Hanging Spear Falls, and the Great Range. These usually require more than one day for the round trip, but are worth all the time and effort necessary.

MOUNT MARCY lies in the midst of a group of high summits in the easterly region of the Adirondack Park. Most of the higher Adirondack peaks are within a radius of fifteen miles of it, and many of them are grouped closely about it. It is, itself, a part of a loosely bonded and somewhat irregular range running in a northeast and southwest direction, beginning with mountains that lie on the southwest side of Keene Valley, and extending southwest toward the Opalescent River.

The range is not to be thought of as a consistent and well-ordered row of peaks. On the contrary, the skyline of it zigzags, and when the summit of Marcy is reached there are high ridges running off



AVALANCHE LAKE

in several directions, giving rise to other large mountains grouped in no perceptible order at all.

The outer boundaries of the group in which Marcy lies are traversed by highways only on the north side and on the east, and then at a considerable distance. Thus, it comes about that Marcy is secluded even as regards the climber. A vigorous tramper can start from a road on the north and do the round trip to its summit between sunrise and sunset. But for many persons a journey to its crest should be accorded more than a single day.

The trails to Marcy start from essentially four points.

On the north there are two routes that begin at Heart Lake, one proceeding by way of Avalanche Lake and Lake Colden, thence up the valley of the Opalescent River and that of Feldspar Brook, while the other takes a more direct and shorter, though less interesting, course to the summit.

On the east a trail leads from Keene Valley past John's Brook Lodge and thence on up to the summit, with an alternate route for a stretch of three and a half miles. From a point near John's Brook Lodge, another and a most impressive trail climbs to the top of the Great Range and follows its summits to Marcy. Thus the Lodge is a convenient and desirable base from which to visit Marcy, either directly or by way of the Great Range.

From the highway at Saint Hubert's a private road leads to the Lower Ausable Lake, and a route which is over a private preserve reaches Marcy by way of a southeast approach.

From Elk Lake on the southeast, reached by a public road, a rather long trail crosses the Boreas Range and climbs the southerly slopes to the crest of Marcy.

On the southwest a route starts from the road that leads north from Tahawus, follows the valley of the Opalescent to Lake Colden, there turns in an easterly direction and continues up the Opalescent and the Feldspar to the summit. A branch from this path makes the journey more directly by cutting across from the lower part of the Opalescent to its upper part, climbing through the sag between Cliff Mountain and Mount Redfield. Still another alternate route proceeds north along Lake Sanford connecting with the trail along the Calamity Brook and the Flowed Lands to Lake Colden, but this crosses a private preserve and should not be used except in genuine emergency.

These several routes will now be described, except that which follows the skyline of the Great Range. The latter is a trip in itself, including the summits of splendid mountains while on its way to Marcy, and will be described in the chapter that follows.

THE VAN HOEVENBERG TRAIL FROM
ADIRONDACK LODGE

Adirondack Lodge is situated on Heart Lake, which is ten miles directly south of Lake Placid. It is reached by taking the motor road that leads from Lake Placid village in the direction of the Cascade Lakes, then turning to the right at North Elba post-office. As far as North Elba the road is a motor thoroughfare. Beyond that point it is in good condition and is readily passable for motor cars.

At Heart Lake the Lake Placid Club has a large reservation. Here there is a new lodge for trampers, with comfortable bunk-rooms, a large living-room, private rooms, and shower baths, all in charge of a resident caretaker. Also there are open-front log shelters, a number of tents, and excellent camp sites, maintained by the Camp and Trail Club and available at a small charge. The caretaker has supplies for sale. Campers are always welcome.

The direct route for Marcy, known as the Van Hoevenberg Trail, coincides at the start with that for Mount MacIntyre and with the route to Lakes Colden and Avalanche. It begins at the new Lodge and continues straight ahead past a garage and camp sites, with Heart Lake showing through the trees on the right. The beginning of the trail is over relatively flat ground, part of it marshy.

It is marked with metal discs that are painted blue.

In ten minutes after leaving the lake the trail crosses a stream which comes from the right, and on the farther side the route to Mount MacIntyre, marked with yellow discs, branches to the right. There are signs at this point. Continuing straight ahead the blue trail crosses another stream in a few rods, and in about twelve minutes crosses a third. Both of these brooks come from the right. Up to this point the path is almost level.

On the farther side of the third stream the trail turns to the right and now begins to ascend a little, with level stretches alternating with slight ascents. In about three quarters of an hour from Heart Lake the path draws near to a large stream, Marcy Brook, which comes from the right. It does not cross it at this point, but proceeds upstream within sight and sound of it. After ten minutes it arrives at Marcy Dam and here crosses the stream on a foot-bridge built upon the dam. This point is a little more than two hundred feet above Heart Lake.

On the farther side of the stream there is an open-front shelter known as Marcy Dam Camp, built by the Camp and Trail Club. Here there is a division of trails. To the right a path marked with yellow discs leads to Avalanche Camp, Ava-

lanche Lake, Lake Colden, and Mount Marcy by way of the Opalescent and the Feldspar. Straight ahead the Van Hoevenberg Trail for Marcy, marked with blue discs, proceeds on its direct way to the summit of the mountain. Either route may be followed for the top of Marcy, but the path by way of Lake Colden is much the longer.

The distance from Heart Lake to this point by trail is two and a quarter miles. From this junction to the summit of Mount Marcy by the Van Hoevenberg Trail is about five and a quarter miles, while the distance by way of Avalanche Lake and Lake Colden is nine miles. There is somewhat less climbing by the former route than by the latter, because of the fact that in reaching Lake Colden the trail ascends to the high point of Avalanche Pass and descends somewhat on the farther side.

The Van Hoevenberg Trail now crosses a considerable ridge and on the farther side comes out upon one of the principal branches of Marcy Brook. Crossing this it begins to climb steeply and in about an hour and a half from Marcy Dam it again crosses a branch of Marcy Brook below Indian Falls. Immediately above the falls a new shelter has been provided by the Camp and Trail Club. It occupies a commanding position and offers a beautiful view to the west and southwest.

The time required from this shelter to the summit of Marcy is three to three and a half hours.

Continuing by an easy grade for half an hour and then entering upon a more rapid ascent for three quarters of an hour, the path climbs to the top of the last ridge before attaining the headwaters of the Opalescent. Half an hour beyond this point the trail reaches a flat where there is a path leading to the left for John's Brook Lodge and Keene Valley. This path is marked with yellow discs. The distance to John's Brook Lodge is four and a half miles, and to Keene Valley nine and a half miles. The ascent from Adirondack Lodge to this point is a little less than twenty-three hundred feet, and the distance is six and a quarter miles.

The remaining ascent to the summit of Marcy is about nine hundred feet and the distance from this point to the summit is one and a quarter miles, allowing for the windings of the trail. The time required from this junction to the summit is an hour to an hour and a half.

Continuing in scrubby woods for twenty-five minutes, with much wet going, the trail arrives at another junction. Here a path to the left, marked with red discs, leads to Keene Valley, ten and a quarter miles distant, by way of Slant Rock and John's Brook Lodge. Three quarters of a mile

down on this path the Range Trail, which crosses Haystack, Basin, Saddleback, and the Gothics, branches to the right.

The route to Marcy swings to the right at the junction noted above, following the blue discs, passes amid scrubby trees, and crosses several boggy areas, which are wet in rainy weather and none too dry at any time. The trail then crosses open rock knolls and ledges from which there are wide views. Most of the ascent is gradual and none of it is especially steep.

In about three quarters of an hour from the last junction the trail comes out upon the broad summit of the mountain. In the rock ledge at the highest point a battered copper bolt will be found, placed there by the Adirondack Topographical Survey in the early seventies. The view from the summit is described in the preceding chapter.

The total distance from Adirondack Lodge to the summit of Marcy by the route just described, is approximately seven and a half miles, allowing for the windings of the trail, and the total climb is about thirty-two hundred feet. A good tramper will make the ascent from the lodge to the summit in six or seven hours. A longer time should be allowed by those who are not used to climbing.

If the return from Marcy is to be made by way of Lake Colden, you will proceed straight on across

the top of the mountain toward the broad notch that lies between Marcy and Mount Skylight, which is southwest of the summit. From the summit to Lake Colden is five miles. In this direction also lies the beginning of the route by way of Elk Lake and that which leads out to Tahawus.

TRAIL BY AVALANCHE PASS AND LAKE COLDEN

From Adirondack Lodge to Marcy Dam this route coincides with the Van Hoevenberg Trail. A description of it will be found in the preceding section, beginning on page 67. Exceptional trampers will cover the distance from the lodge to Marcy Dam in forty-five minutes, but the usual time is an hour to an hour and a quarter. On the farther side of the stream at the dam there is an open-front shelter.

After crossing the stream the trail divides. The route straight ahead, following the blue markers, is the Van Hoevenberg Trail for the summit of Marcy. The path to Avalanche Lake and Lake Colden turns to the right and is marked with yellow discs.

The latter trail proceeds upstream near one of the principal branches of Marcy Brook, which is on the right. There is a gradual ascent for half an hour, at the end of which the path crosses the stream that it has been following. On the farther

side there is an open-front log shelter known as Avalanche Camp. The altitude here is about four hundred and fifty feet above that at Heart Lake.

Continuing steadily up-grade for fifteen minutes more, the trail passes a fork which leads to the left for the summit of Mount Colden. The trail for Avalanche Pass keeps to the right here, continues to ascend steadily, and in about half an hour reaches the highest point between Heart Lake and Lake Colden. The altitude here is eight hundred feet above that at Adirondack Lodge.

The trail now proceeds through a narrow and beautiful defile in the midst of moss-covered boulders, presently descending gradually. In about twenty minutes after reaching the beginning of the pass, it comes out at the head of Avalanche Lake, and a magnificent view unfolds, with the rock walls of Mount Colden descending on the left, stark and impressive, directly into the waters of the lake, while on the right is the broken and steep rock slope of Avalanche Mountain, sometimes called Caribou.

From the head of the lake to the foot is only half a mile, but the time required for this stage of the journey is usually about twenty-five or thirty minutes. The trail follows the right or northwesterly margin of the lake, climbing over, around, and under immense boulders. Twice the

path is compelled to make its way along the face of vertical rocks, which it does with the help of rude foot-bridges supported by logs at the surface of the water. At the foot of the lake the trail crosses the outlet on a log bridge.

Fifteen minutes beyond the outlet the trail forks. The route to the left leads directly to the shelters at the foot of Lake Colden. That to the right first passes through woods and then skirts the right shore of Lake Colden, eventually coming out at the lower end of the lake and thus giving access to the shelters. From the trail around the right margin the path to the summit of Mount MacIntyre branches, a little more than a quarter of a mile after leaving the fork. The more direct trail along the left border of Lake Colden is marked with yellow discs, while the longer trail, around the right of the lake, is marked with blue discs. Of the two the yellow trail is rougher, requiring more climbing up and down, but makes up for this by the fact that it is shorter. The time required from the fork to the foot of Lake Colden is about half an hour by the yellow trail and somewhat more by the blue trail.

The yellow trail soon comes out upon the margin of Lake Colden and follows it closely all the way to the lower end. There are splendid views across the lake to summits of the MacIntyre Range. Ten

minutes before the lower end of the lake is reached a trail marked with red discs branches to the left for Mount Colden.

At the lower end of Lake Colden there are three shelters available for trampers. One of these is situated in a little opening a few yards from the Opalescent River. The second is somewhat to the right and faces the Opalescent. The third is on the farther side of the river and downstream a few rods, near the point where the Opalescent is joined by the outlet of Lake Colden. This shelter faces toward Lake Colden and has a beautiful view in the direction of Avalanche Pass. A felled tree across the Opalescent serves as a foot-bridge to the farther side.

The lower end of the lake is the meeting point of several trails. To the left a route marked with red discs leads to Mount Marcy by way of the Opalescent Valley and that of Feldspar Brook. To the right, proceeding past the new shelter that faces the river and crossing the outlet of Lake Colden on a small stone dam, you can turn to the right for the blue trail that proceeds around the farther margin of Lake Colden and gives access to Mount MacIntyre, or to the left for the artificial body of water, a little downstream, known as the Flowed Lands, and beyond that for Hanging Spear Falls, two and a quarter miles distant, Lake

Sanford, seven and a half miles farther, and Tahawus post-office, six and three quarters miles still farther.

Another trail branches to the right near the Flowed Lands, leads past the Henderson Monument, proceeds down the valley of Calamity Brook, and again forks. One fork here leads across a ridge to the brook that comes down out of Indian Pass, where you may turn to the right, go through the pass, and thus make your way back to Adirondack Lodge or may turn to the left and continue to Preston Ponds and the Cold River country. The second fork, bearing to the left, is a private trail to the Tahawus Club, whence a road through a private preserve leads out in the direction of Tahawus post-office. This last trail is not for public use.

The route from the foot of Lake Colden to the summit of Marcy turns upstream at the shelters and immediately crosses the Opalescent on a felled tree. On the farther side it turns left and continues near the river. About thirty minutes from the lake the trail passes close to a deep flume through which the waters of the Opalescent plunge and boil.

Continuing to rise, the trail presently passes into a logged area, and in about an hour from the lake crosses a knoll, descends a little, and comes out in

an open space where Buckley's lumber camp once stood. The buildings of the camp are now practically obliterated.

A trail marked with yellow discs enters on the right near this point. This trail crosses the divide between Mount Redfield and Cliff Mountain and proceeds down the waters of Upper Twin Brook, which flows into the Opalescent River farther downstream. Eventually it joins the trail which starts from the dam at the foot of Lake Colden, proceeds around the Flowed Lands and continues down the main valley of the Opalescent.

Near the junction of the Opalescent River and Uphill Brook there is a shelter known as Uphill Brook Camp, built through the generosity of President Edward A. Woods of the Camp and Trail Club. It is open to the public.

From the opening known as Buckley's Camp to the summit of Marcy the trail is marked with yellow discs instead of red. Turning to the left, crossing Uphill Brook, which comes in from the right, and proceeding on up the Opalescent, the trail arrives in three quarters of a mile at the place where Feldspar Brook joins the Opalescent. Near this junction there is another open-front log shelter, available for trampers.

Here the route to Marcy swings to the right and now follows the general direction of Feldspar

Brook, although the brook itself is usually deep down to the left of the trail and not in sight or sound. This part of the climb is steep, though it is not difficult or dangerous.

After climbing for a mile and a half the trail passes close to Lake Tear-of-the-Clouds, which is a small pond on the left. Beyond the lake the rise is slight and in another quarter of a mile the path arrives at the log lean-to known as Four Corners' Camp.

Here again there is a division of the way. To the right a trail leads to the summit of Mount Skylight, which is half a mile distant. Straight ahead, marked with blue discs, is the route to the country southeast of Mount Marcy, including the inlet of the Upper Ausable Lake and the Elk Lake region. To the left is the route to Marcy, the summit of which is now distant about a mile in a northeasterly direction.

The climb from this point to the crest of the mountain is one of moderate grade. For a time the way lies in the midst of scrubby trees, but presently it comes out on more or less open rock. After the path once reaches the open there are broad views sweeping over mountain peaks and ranges to east and west. The time required from Four Corners' Camp to the summit is about an hour.

The total distance from Adirondack Lodge, through Avalanche Pass, along Lake Colden, and thus to the summit of Marcy by the route just described, is approximately eleven and a half miles. A good trampler will cover the journey from the lodge to the foot of Lake Colden in three and a half to five hours, though a somewhat longer allowance should be made for those who are not accustomed to climbing. The journey from the foot of the lake to the top of the mountain can be done in four hours by a good trampler, but a better allowance is five or six hours.

If the trampler proposes to return to Adirondack Lodge by way of the Van Hoevenberg Trail, about five to six hours will ordinarily be allowed for the remainder of the trip. The trail leads northeast from the summit of Marcy until the foot of the cone is reached, and then northwest.

ROUTE BY INDIAN PASS AND LAKE COLDEN

It is possible to approach the summit of Marcy by a roundabout route leading through Indian Pass, across to Calamity Brook, up the brook to the Flowed Lands, on up to the outlet of Lake Colden, and thence by the Opalescent and Feldspar to the summit.

The journey to the mountain by this route is not a one-day trip. But it is possible to make the

tramp through the pass and around to Lake Colden in one day, and then to do the summit of Marcy and back to Adirondack Lodge over the Van Hoevenberg Trail the second day. Each of these days will be a long one, but the compensations in the way of magnificent scenery are manifold.

The trail from Adirondack Lodge to Indian Pass is marked with red discs and starts around the margin of Heart Lake. For a time the path rises moderately, following the valley between the MacIntyre Range on the southeast and Street Mountain on the northwest. Four miles from the lodge at Heart Lake the trail arrives at a dam. The route to Indian Pass does not cross this, but continues upstream on the near side. The trail across the dam leads to Scott Pond. As the tramper continues toward Indian Pass the valley gradually narrows, the grade grows steeper, and when about six miles from Heart Lake the trail climbs to the summit of the pass.

Just beyond there is a magnificent view, with the lofty cliff of Wallface Mountain on the right and the broad bulk of Santanoni Mountain straight ahead down the valley of Indian Pass Brook. The trail now proceeds over and around big boulders, descending rapidly for a time. Through all of this part of the journey the slopes



A TYPICAL ADIRONDACK SHELTER — 'SNO BIRD CAMP,' BETWEEN HAYSTACK AND
BASIN

of the MacIntyre Range rise on the left, while those of Wallface and MacNaughton mountains are on the right.

About nine miles from Heart Lake the trail forks. The route marked with red discs continues to the right for Preston Ponds. Ten minutes' walk ahead on this path there is a log shelter. The trail to the left, marked with blue discs, crosses over a spur of the MacIntyre Range and comes out a mile and three quarters farther along, in the valley of Calamity Brook. Proceeding up the valley of this brook it passes a marshy pond at the end of two and a half miles. Just beyond this the Henderson Monument will be noted close to the trail. It was at this spot that David Henderson was accidentally killed in the early days of iron-mine development in this region.

About half a mile beyond the monument the trail comes out upon the border of the artificial lake known as the Flowed Lands, where there is an open camp. Here it joins a route marked with red discs. To the right the latter trail leads down the Opalescent River to Lake Sanford, eight and three quarters miles distant, and Tahawus post-office, six and three quarters miles farther. To the left the red trail leads up to the outlet of Lake Colden, which is a mile away. Crossing the outlet on a stone and log dam it arrives at the shelters pro-

vided by the Conservation Department for the use of trampers.

The total distance from Adirondack Lodge to the outlet of Lake Colden by the route just described is approximately fourteen and three quarters miles and the time required to make the journey is eight to ten hours.

From the outlet of Lake Colden to the summit of Marcy is five miles, the route proceeding by way of the Opalescent River and Feldspar Brook, as already described, beginning on page 76.

TRAIL FROM KEENE VALLEY BY WAY OF JOHN'S BROOK LODGE

The village of Keene Valley is situated on a motor road leading south from Keene along the east branch of the Ausable River. It is readily reached from the east by the motor thoroughfare that proceeds through Elizabethtown in a westerly direction toward Lake Placid. From the south it may be reached by a road crossing through the narrow pass in which Chapel Pond is situated.

At a four corners in the village, not far from the post-office, a sign will be found indicating the approach to Mount Marcy. A public road leads west from here. Where the road crosses an iron bridge the route to Marcy keeps to the left, and about two hundred yards beyond this it bears to

the left and then to the right into woods. Cars must be left here. While the way beyond seems to be open, it soon ceases to be passable except for trampers. The distance from the four corners in the village to this point is three quarters of a mile.

The trail now follows the valley of John's Brook, with the stream on the right and usually close by and is marked with yellow discs. There is an excellent cold spring beside the path three quarters of a mile from the start.

Four and a half miles from the village a trail marked with blue discs branches to the left. This is one of the approaches to the Great Range, which is described beginning on page 100.

Continuing along John's Brook the trail to Marcy soon crosses the stream on a high log bridge and a little way beyond passes a trail branching to the right for the summit of Big Slide Mountain. A few minutes beyond this fork the Marcy Trail arrives at John's Brook Lodge, which is maintained by the Adirondack Mountain Club for the entertainment of trampers.

The lodge is open through the summer season and provides both meals and lodging. There is a comfortable bunk-room for men, another for women, with a shower bath adjoining each room. A big living-room with a fireplace is pleasant and inviting. In addition there is space near the lodge

where trampers who wish to do so may camp out, and there is an outdoor kitchen which they may use. Maps and guide-books may be obtained from the caretaker at the lodge.

Continuing up the valley beyond the lodge the trail for Marcy first passes through a region of small trees, but soon enters beautiful woods. A mile from the lodge the path crosses Hogback Brook, passing along a narrow spur between this brook and John's Brook. Half a mile beyond this a branch trail leads to Bushnell's Falls. Soon the John's Brook trail crosses the main stream near an open log shelter. At this point there is a fork.

From the fork either one of two trails is available. The route to the left, marked with red discs, after crossing John's Brook leaves the stream and strikes for the head of the valley, later returning to the brook farther up and eventually coming out at the foot of the summit cone of Marcy. The trail to the right, marked with yellow discs, follows the main valley of John's Brook for a time, with the stream on the left, and then continues up a branch stream. Near the cone of Marcy it joins the other trail. If you are staying at John's Brook Lodge and are making a one-day journey from that point to the summit of Marcy and return, you may go up by one trail and back by the other.

The trail marked with red discs crosses John's

Brook and climbs a long ridge. A mile and three quarters from the fork this trail swings to the right, again approaches John's Brook, crosses it and passes a large, overhanging rock commonly known as Slant Rock Camp, because it has furnished temporary shelter to great numbers of trampers. A mile beyond Slant Rock the Great Range Trail comes in on the left. In this section the route is steep and often wet and slippery.

Three quarters of a mile beyond the place where the Great Range Trail comes in, the John's Brook Trail arrives at another junction marked by signs. Here the Van Hoevenberg Trail from Adirondack Lodge, seven miles distant, comes in from the right. Here, also, the alternate route from the fork below comes in, utilizing the Van Hoevenberg Trail for the last three quarters of a mile of its journey.

From this junction to the top of Mount Marcy the climb is largely over open rock, but is not dangerous or difficult. The distance from the junction to the summit is half a mile.

The alternate route from the fork below is marked with yellow discs and climbs by steady grades through a region that is beautifully forested. It was laid out by Arthur S. Hopkins in 1920 and is one of the most attractive sections of trail in the whole Marcy region. The path climbs

by moderate grades, crosses several branch streams, some of them with steep banks, and at the end of two and three quarters miles comes out upon the Van Hoevenberg Trail, the junction being marked with signs. To the right is the route to Adirondack Lodge, six and a quarter miles distant. To the left is the route to the summit of Marcy. Turning to the left and continuing over some marshy ground for three quarters of a mile, following the blue discs of the Van Hoevenberg Trail, you will arrive at the junction where the red trail from the fork below comes in. The route from here to the summit is largely over open rocks, as already noted, the distance being half a mile.

If you are making a circuit from John's Brook Lodge to the summit of the mountain and return, going up by way of the red trail and returning by the yellow trail, your route on leaving the mountain will be as follows. From the summit you will follow the blue markers of the Van Hoevenberg Trail down over the rocks for half a mile and will keep to the left where the red trail for Keene Valley branches off. Somewhat less than a mile from this point, after crossing much marshy ground, you will arrive at another fork marked with signs and here you will diverge to the right, taking the yellow trail. The latter trail proceeds through scattering woods, passes a beaver meadow,

and soon begins to descend rapidly in a beautiful spruce forest. Crossing several brooks and continuing through splendid spruces it eventually joins the red trail. From this junction to John's Brook Lodge is a mile and three quarters.

The distance from John's Brook Lodge to the summit of Mount Marcy by way of either the red trail or the yellow is approximately five and three quarters miles. The time required from the lodge to the summit is five to six hours. The time required for the descent from the summit to the lodge by either route is four to five hours.

ROUTE BY WAY OF THE GREAT RANGE

Beginning southwest of Keene Valley a range of rugged summits leads to Mount Marcy. There is a trail over the greater part of this range which constitutes the most spectacular approach to the summit of Marcy. This trail may be reached either from Keene Valley by way of John's Brook and Orebed Brook, or from Saint Hubert's by way of a trail over a private preserve to the summit of the Gothics and thence over the Great Range to Marcy. Since this route is really a journey in itself, taking in the summits of other splendid mountains besides Marcy, it will be described in a separate chapter on the Great Range.

TRAIL FROM ELK LAKE

Elk Lake is a marshy-bordered but interesting body of water situated in a broad valley rimmed about by the Boreas Range on the west and northwest, Colvin, Nippletop, and Dix on the north and northeast, and McComb on the east. It is reached by a road branching from the highway that leads west from Schroon River to Tahawus. Schroon River is on the thoroughfare that runs along Schroon Lake and continues north to Elizabethtown. Tahawus is on the northwest-and-southeast motor thoroughfare connecting North Creek with Long Lake.

The approach to Marcy from Elk Lake is long, and much of it is a walk through woods. Until it nears the mountain its interest is that of a woods trail.

The path is marked with blue discs and begins at the dam at the foot of Elk Lake. Crossing this it follows an old tote-road and in a mile and three quarters crosses one of the streams that flows into Elk Lake. Fifteen or twenty minutes beyond the crossing there is a fork, the route to Marcy here bearing to the left. The trail now climbs steadily, crossing the Boreas Range. On the farther side it descends to the marshy inlet of the Upper Ausable Lake. The distance from Elk Lake to the height of land in the Boreas Range is four and a half miles,

and the total distance to the inlet is five and a half miles. Close to the inlet the path crosses a trail that leads to the right toward the Upper Ausable Lake and to the left to Panorama Bluff, a viewpoint commanding the mountains of the Great Range.

Crossing the sluggish stream the trail proceeds northwesterly, and presently again begins to climb, at first moderately and then more steeply. The valley of Marcy Brook is on the left and Bartlett Ridge is on the right. Swinging more directly toward Marcy, which now lies almost due north, the trail follows Marcy Brook up to a point where it leads out of Panther Gorge. The distance from Elk Lake to this point is nine and a quarter miles. Mount Haystack is now on the right and Skylight Mountain is on the left.

Crossing Marcy Brook the trail swings to the left and climbs steadily for a mile until it reaches the elevated sag between Skylight and Marcy, where it comes out at the open-front lean-to known as the Four Corners' Camp. Straight ahead is the route to Lake Colden, four miles distant, by way of Feldspar Brook and the Opalescent River. To the left is the trail to Skylight, half a mile away, and to the right that to the summit of Marcy. Turning to the right the trail climbs steadily through scrub timber, emerges in the open, and

for the last half-mile proceeds over moderately sloping, bare rocks to the summit. The distance from Four Corners' Camp to the top of the mountain is one mile.

The distance from the dam at the foot of Elk Lake to the summit of Marcy by this route is eleven miles, allowing for windings of the trail. The time required from Elk Lake to the summit is eight to nine hours.

ROUTES FROM LAKE SANFORD

From Lake Sanford on the southwest side of Mount Marcy two different routes may be followed to the summit of Marcy, although these coincide through the early part of the journey, and are the same for the last three and a half miles. One route follows the Opalescent River to the Flowed Lands and Lake Colden, continues to the point where Feldspar Brook enters, and then follows the latter the rest of the way up the mountain. The second starts out along the Opalescent, but leaves it for the valley of Upper Twin Brook, crosses through the divide between Cliff Mountain and Mount Redfield, comes out upon the Opalescent again, and continues to the top with the route first mentioned. In addition there is a private trail through the preserve of the Tahawus Club to Calamity Brook and thus to Lake Colden, but this is not for public use.

Lake Sanford is a part of the headwaters of the Hudson River. It is reached by following the motor highway that connects North Creek on the southeast with Long Lake on the northwest. About half way from North Creek to Long Lake a road branches to the right, leading by Tahawus post-office and continuing on up to Lake Sanford. The upper part of the route is over private land where no camping is permitted.

Just before reaching the broad part of Lake Sanford the road passes near a wooden bridge which crosses a narrow part of the lake. The bridge is available for foot passengers but not for motor cars. There is a signboard here indicating the beginning of trails for Mount Marcy. The distance to this point from Tahawus post-office is six and three quarters miles.

TRAIL BY UPPER TWIN BROOK

Starting from the log bridge at the lake this trail, marked with yellow discs, soon passes the old Lake Sanford iron mines. About a mile from the bridge it turns to the right in a clearing and proceeds in an easterly direction. Three and a half miles from the lake it crosses the Opalescent River. Up to this point and for several miles beyond, the path follows an old tote-road built for logging purposes. Ten or fifteen minutes after passing the

Opalescent the trail crosses Dudley Brook, which comes from the slopes of Mounts Skylight, Redfield, and Allen, lying to the east.

Beyond Dudley Brook the trail gradually swings more toward the north and in a mile crosses Lower Twin Brook. Just beyond this it approaches Upper Twin Brook, which leads toward the valley between Mount Redfield and Cliff Mountain. Here there is a fork. The route marked with yellow discs now turns to the right, following the general course of Upper Twin Brook, while the route to the left, marked with red discs, crosses Upper Twin and continues up the valley of the Opalescent on its way to Lake Colden. The latter path will be described later.

The yellow trail now begins to climb steadily, still following an old tote-road and making its way up into the sag between Mount Redfield and Cliff Mountain. In the course of the next three miles the path rises about fifteen hundred feet, finally attaining the crest of the divide and then dropping down into the valley of the upper Opalescent, which it reaches near the point where Uphill Brook flows into it. In descending to the Opalescent from the height of land between Mount Redfield and Cliff Mountain the trail drops nearly four hundred feet. The distance from Lake Sanford to this point is eight and a quarter miles.

The path is now joined by the red trail which comes up from Lake Colden, following the Opalescent Valley. The route from here to the summit of Marcy coincides with the upper part of that from Lake Colden to the summit. The distance from this point to the top of the mountain is three and a half miles and the rise in altitude is a little less than twenty-four hundred feet. The time required from this point is three to four hours.

The total distance from the bridge at Lake Sanford to the top of Mount Marcy by this route is approximately eleven and three quarters miles, allowing for the windings of the trail, and the total time required is eight to ten hours.

TRAIL BY THE OPALESCENT, FLOWED LANDS, AND LAKE COLDEN

An alternate route starts at the bridge at Lake Sanford, follows the yellow trail as far as Upper Twin Brook, and there diverges on a trail marked with red discs which continues up the Opalescent to the Flowed Lands and Lake Colden and thence to the summit of Marcy by the Opalescent and the Feldspar.

The first part of this route as far as Upper Twin Brook is described in the preceding section, beginning on page 91. At Upper Twin the trail forks and here you will keep to the left, taking up a

route marked with red discs, crossing Upper Twin Brook at once and proceeding up the valley of the Opalescent.

The path follows easy grades for a time and in about a mile arrives opposite the lower end of a gorge through which the Opalescent River flows. A mile and three quarters farther the trail passes within a short distance of Hanging Spear Falls, where the waters of the Opalescent plunge over cliffs in an impressive rock ravine. In another mile the path reaches the lower end of the artificial lake known as the Flowed Lands and here crosses the Opalescent from right to left.

Continuing north, with the Flowed Lands on the right, the trail soon reaches a junction where a route marked with blue discs comes in from Calamity Brook and Indian Pass. There is an open camp at this point. Following the red markers, the route passes the head of the Flowed Lands and presently comes out at the foot of Lake Colden where there is a small stone dam. There is a junction of trails here. The route straight ahead, marked with blue discs, follows the westerly shore of Lake Colden. The red trail for Marcy descends a short ladder at the end of the dam, crosses it, and a few rods beyond arrives at the log shelters maintained by the Conservation Department.

The distance from the bridge at Lake Sanford to the foot of Lake Colden is nine and three quarters miles, and the time required for the trip is six to seven hours.

The distance from the foot of Lake Colden to the summit of Mount Marcy, by way of the Opalescent and Feldspar, is five miles, and the time required from Lake Colden to the summit is four to six hours. The trail is described in detail beginning on page 76.

PRIVATE ROUTE TO CALAMITY BROOK AND LAKE COLDEN

This route is not for public use. It is described here only because it might be used in an emergency.

From the bridge at Lake Sanford the road to Tahawus Club continues on the westerly side of the lake. While this road is passable for motor cars, it is a private way through land owned and maintained as a reserve. The clubhouse at the end of the road is for club members only and camping is not permitted.

From the club buildings a path leads in half a mile to a fork. Here the trail to the right follows up Calamity Brook, past Calamity Pond and Henderson Monument, and comes out at the Flowed Lands, five miles distant.

CHAPTER VIII

THE GREAT RANGE

The most remarkable continuous series of high summits in the Adirondacks, and a spectacular approach to Mount Marcy. Usually a two-days or three-days trip, camping at shelters. Access either from Saint Hubert's, or from Keene Valley and John's Brook Lodge. A noteworthy circuit starting from John's Brook Lodge as a base.

THE most striking series of mountains in the Adirondacks is the Great Range. Beginning a short distance southwest of Keene Valley, this succession of summits extends in a southwesterly direction to a culmination in Mount Marcy, the highest of all Adirondack peaks.

There is a trail along the skyline of the range beginning with the Gothics and continuing over the two summits of Saddleback, over Basin, and part of Haystack, and thus to the top of Marcy. The route was laid out by Alfred T. White, of the Ausable Club, starting from the East Branch, and was cleared as a trail in 1911. It is unquestionably the most spectacular approach to Marcy, and in addition the several summits that are crossed are in themselves worth-while mountains.

While the range may be traveled in either direction, most trampers will find it more satisfactory



ALONG THE GREAT RANGE TOWARD MARCY, FROM THE GOTHICS

to begin at the Gothics and cover it in the direction of Marcy. For its maximum enjoyment the trip requires more than a single day from the foot of the Gothics to the summit of Marcy. A fast climber can do it between sunrise and sunset, but the distance and the amount of climbing combine to make this out of the question for many visitors. As will be described later, there is a log lean-to in the col between the Gothics and Saddleback, another between Basin and Haystack, and a third about a mile beyond the summit of Marcy, not far from Lake Tear-of-the-Clouds.

The succession of summits of the Great Range will be described in order from northeast to southwest.

THE GOTHICS

Two means of access are available to the Gothics. One of these is a trail beginning at a private road that leads from the Ausable Club to the Lower Ausable Lake. The other is a trail starting in John's Brook Valley, a few minutes' walk from John's Brook Lodge of the Adirondack Mountain Club, and proceeding up Orebed Brook to the col between Saddleback and the Gothics and thence to the summit of the Gothics.

The trail from the road above the Ausable Club is reached by way of the club's headquarters at

Saint Hubert's. This is on a motor road leading south from Keene Valley and is distant about four miles from that village. The same point may be reached from the south by a public road through the notch near Chapel Pond.

From the clubhouse a private route leads to the Lower Ausable Lake. Motor cars are not permitted on this road, but it is possible to arrange for a carriage at the club headquarters.

The road proceeds steadily uphill, and when about two miles from the clubhouse passes the start of the trail for the Gothics. The path leads to the right and is marked by a sign. In somewhat less than half a mile from the road the path crosses the Ausable East Branch. If the tramper is going afoot the same point may be reached by diverging from the road when a mile above the clubhouse, taking a trail on the right that follows the valley of the stream and thus intersects the Gothics trail.

After crossing the East Branch the trail climbs steeply, close to a beautiful waterfall. Above the falls the path proceeds up the valley of the brook, heading toward the rugged outposts of Armstrong Mountain, and following a general northwesterly direction.

In about an hour after leaving the falls the trail becomes much steeper and presently crosses ledges on the precipitous slopes of Armstrong. There are

striking views toward the Wolf Jaws, as well as in other directions. After crossing two knolls of Armstrong the trail attacks the northeasterly pitch of the Gothics and climbs to the highest point of the mountain. The altitude at the summit is 4738 feet. The distance from the East Branch to the summit is three and a half miles and the total distance from the clubhouse is six miles. The time required from the clubhouse is four to five hours.

The other means of access to the Gothics begins at a four corners near the post-office in Keene Valley, and follows, first a road, then a trail up John's Brook Valley. This trail is marked with yellow discs. Half a mile before John's Brook Lodge is reached the trail for Saddleback and the Gothics, marked with blue discs, branches off to the left up Orebed Brook. The distance from Keene Valley to the fork noted is four and a half miles. This part of the journey will be found described in detail, beginning on page 82.

John's Brook Lodge is a comfortable and a very convenient place to stay overnight when starting on a trip over the Great Range, or when visiting other mountain summits near by. A caretaker is in charge, meals are served, and there are comfortable sleeping-quarters. It is about fifteen minutes' walk beyond the point where the trail up the

valley of Orebed Brook branches from the John's Brook Trail.

For a time after leaving John's Brook the blue trail follows a logging road with gradual ascent. In half an hour it turns to the right into woods and soon crosses a brook coming from the left. The altitude at this point is about four hundred feet above John's Brook Lodge. Twenty minutes after crossing the brook the trail crosses another brook coming from the left and twenty-five minutes farther it draws near to a third, also coming from the left.

The path now begins to climb somewhat more rapidly in the midst of evergreen woods. In a few minutes it draws alongside the brook that has been in sight, crosses it, and at once begins to climb steeply, often over long, sloping ledges covered with moss. After half an hour of this the trail arrives at an open-front log shelter in the col between the summits of Saddleback and the Gothics. Saddleback is to the right or rear of the shelter, while the westerly end of the Gothics is in sight facing the front of the shelter.

The total climb from John's Brook Lodge to this point is about sixteen hundred feet. The distance is three and a half miles, and the time required is about three hours. The distance from Keene Valley is seven and a half miles, and the time required is about five hours.

The trail to the Gothics will readily be found not far from the shelter and is marked by a sign. The remaining climb to the westerly summit, which is in plain sight, is a little less than seven hundred feet. At first the path leads up moderately in scanty woods, but soon it begins to climb steeply, much of it over ledges with deep crevices. From the shelter to the top of the westerly summit will require about forty-five minutes for an ordinary climber. Beyond that the trail winds through scrub and leads on to the main summit, which is about sixty feet higher.

In the ledge at the highest point will be found a copper bolt placed there in 1886 by the Adirondack Survey, under the direction of Verplanck Colvin. It was in 1875 that Colvin first visited the top of this mountain, making his way up from the valley of John's Brook. The date was October 11 and the higher mountains were snowcapped.

It was nearly four o'clock when they finally reached the crest. The temperature was 22° F. and a stiff wind was blowing. After setting up instruments and making some observations, they started on, taking a course intended to lead them down into the valley on the southwest side of the Gothics, in the direction of the Upper Ausable Lake. Continuing as far as they could until darkness shut in, the men reached a shelf on the face

of the mountain. They camped on the shelf. The next morning they found a route down which led them into the lower part of the great bowl beneath Basin Mountain, and eventually they came out on Upper Ausable Lake.

The name 'The Gothics' was given to this mountain in 1857 by Frederick S. Perkins, who was visiting Mount Marcy. He likened it to a monumental Gothic cathedral, and it has carried its unusual and descriptive name ever since.

The view from the mountain gives one an impression of tremendous summits and precipitous slopes. Toward the west the Great Range piles up, with Saddleback, Basin, and Marcy, one beyond another, while toward the east and southeast the mountains beyond the Ausable Lakes rise, summit after summit.

Mount Marcy is a little south of west, by compass. It stands out, easily distinguished because it is the loftiest peak on the skyline in that direction. Directly in line with it and a little lower is the peak of Basin Mountain, its face marked with slides. Close on the right of Basin is a lesser peak of the same mountain, and in line with the latter is the left summit of Saddleback. The distance from the Gothics to the top of Marcy in an air line is three and a half miles.

Just to the left of Marcy is the broad, low sum-

mit of Mount Skylight, and to the left of that the striking mass of Mount Haystack, its face marked with several slides. The small, inverted V of Little Haystack is in line with the left part of Mount Skylight. To the left of Haystack, in turn, is Allen Mountain, five and a half miles away, and to its left still farther distant, is North River Mountain. Just to the left of the latter, if the air is clear enough, one can distinguish Vanderwhacker, twenty miles distant. Slightly to the right of Vanderwhacker and thirty-nine miles distant, is Snowy, near Indian Lake.

In the valley west of south, three and a half miles distant, is the Upper Ausable Lake. Over the left margin of the lake is Boreas Mountain, its top appearing as if notched, with a fire-tower on the broader of the two parts of the summit.

Slightly to the right of Boreas, over the lake, it may be possible to see Crane Mountain forty miles away. On the left of the lake the slopes lead up to the Colvin Range, which continues to the left, behind the Sawteeth near at hand. Over Colvin and almost in line with the Sawteeth, Pharaoh Mountain can be made out in clear weather. It is nearly twenty-four miles away.

To the left of the Sawteeth and beyond the Colvin Range is Nippletop, while on its left and farther away is Mount Dix, its summit showing a

characteristic rock pyramid at the right end. To the right of Nippletop and still farther distant is McComb.

Deep down in the valley to the left of Sawteeth one can see the lower end of the Lower Ausable Lake with its boat-house. Over it is Dial Mountain. Still farther to the left the rocky cone of Noonmark is visible. Just to the left of Noonmark is the low, barren mass of Roundtop. Again to the left is the high and massive Rocky Peak Ridge. Close by on its left is the Giant, its face scored with slides. The distance to its summit in an air line is seven and a half miles. To the left of the Giant is Spread Eagle Mountain.

Hurricane Mountain, with its observation tower, lies to the left of Spread Eagle, in a northeasterly direction, and is eleven miles distant. Close at hand in the same direction are the Wolf Jaws. To the left of Hurricane, and six miles farther away, are the Jay Mountains.

The view now swings across the valley of John's Brook in a northerly direction. Big Slide Mountain stands out prominently, four miles distant, with Porter and Cascade behind it and slightly to the right. The unmistakable cone of Mount Whiteface is almost in line with Big Slide summit and is seventeen miles away.

Picking up again the view toward Marcy, one

will see on its right Mount Colden and to the right of that the summits of the MacIntyre Range, with Algonquin Peak the highest, six and a half miles distant.

SADDLEBACK MOUNTAIN

The top of Saddleback is reached by a relatively short and easy climb from the col where the shelter is situated between Saddleback and the Gothics. While the mountain is wooded on both of its summits, it offers two striking viewpoints, one of them looking back toward the Gothics and the other looking toward Basin, Marcy, and a sweep of country from northwest to south.

Access from John's Brook Valley to the shelter mentioned above by way of the trail up Orebed Brook, has already been described, beginning on page 100. From the shelter the trail for Saddleback, marked with blue discs, will readily be found nearby, indicated by a sign. Saddleback is to the rear of the shelter, while the Gothics are opposite the front.

Soon after the climb begins vistas open out toward the Gothics, the beauty of the view increasing as one ascends. In about twenty-five minutes the top of the first summit of Saddleback will be reached. The climb to this point is about four hundred and fifty feet. The trail now de-

scends a little, crosses the hollow between the two summits of the mountain, then rises briskly, crosses the higher one, and arrives at a commanding outlook at the west end of the higher summit, where ledges drop away to the col between Saddleback and Basin. The distance from the shelter to this point is half a mile, and the rise in altitude is five hundred feet.

From this westerly outlook Basin looms high ahead, its flanks showing many bare ledges and some slides. There is a second and lower peak of Basin to the right of the main peak, and over this second summit the cone of Marcy appears. A long ridge extending down from Marcy on the right rises in two rounded masses, the left one of which is Tabletop and the right one Phelps. Between Marcy and Tabletop, Mount Colden and a part of the MacIntyre Range are visible, the former on the left and the latter on the right. Haystack is to the left of Basin. The slopes of Haystack descend on the left to the Upper Ausable Lake, deep in the valley, with Boreas Mountain rising above the lake's right-hand margin, and the undulating skyline of the Colvin Range to the left.

The trail down the westerly end of Saddleback is precipitous. Much of it is over rugged ledges with steep faces, but the rocks have convenient clefts and irregularities. The descent from the out-

look to the col between Saddleback and Basin is about three hundred feet.

BASIN MOUNTAIN

Basin Mountain commands one of the most satisfactory views in the Adirondacks. Looking back toward the Gothics and the mountains beyond, it gives a vivid impression of steep and slide-scored summits. Between Basin and the Gothics lies an enormous, deep bowl. Toward Haystack the mountain offers a complete picture of a high and impressive peak, from base to crown.

The climb to the top of Basin from the col between Basin and Saddleback involves a total gain in elevation of about six hundred feet, part of which must be acquired at the expense of steep going. Very soon after beginning the climb one arrives at a ledge where a long rope has been provided to assist one in clambering up. The angle is not steep enough to make the venture dangerous.

In half an hour from the col the first of Basin's crests is reached, the altitude here about four hundred feet above that at the col. Crossing this wooded height and descending a little, the trail once more climbs sharply. In fifteen minutes it emerges in open scrub and passes a big rock from which there is a splendid panorama in the direction

of the Gothics. Three minutes beyond this point the trail attains the summit of the mountain.

It was in 1877 that the first recorded exploration of Basin Mountain took place. The chief of the Adirondack Survey, together with a guide, came down from the summit of Marcy to the head of John's Brook, crossed the valley at the upper end of the brook, proceeded to the foot of Basin on that side, and at two o'clock in the afternoon reached the summit. They remained for a short time, making some observations, and then started to descend in an easterly direction, but were compelled to detour because of ledges below them. They made their way around these and came out at the Upper Ausable Lake.

Basin Mountain drops off into a tremendous bowl on its east and southeast side, into which one can look down from the summit. Across the impressive depths of this the Gothics stand out in wonderful array.

Southwest from the summit one looks across another great valley to Haystack Mountain, its sides scored with slides. Over the right slope of Haystack the rounded dome of Skylight appears and to its right the regular and splendid cone of Mount Marcy. To the right of Marcy is Mount Colden and on its right is the MacIntyre Range, its highest summit five and a half miles distant.

In clear weather it may be possible to pick out Saint Regis Mountain in the northwest, beyond the waters of the Lower Saranac Lake. It is to the right of the end of the MacIntyre Range and is thirty miles away. On around to the north Mount Whiteface is in view, seventeen miles away.

Slightly to the right of the line to Whiteface and much nearer one can see Pitchoff Mountain, near the Cascade Lakes. On its right, in turn, is Cascade Mountain. Almost in line with Cascade, but two and a half miles nearer, is Big Slide Mountain.

The Jay Range is northeast, seventeen miles away. Just to the right, but only twelve miles distant, Hurricane Mountain is in view, with an observation tower on its summit. To the right of Hurricane one can see a part of Lake Champlain, thirty-five miles distant. In the same direction, but only eight miles away, is Spread Eagle Mountain. To its right the view sweeps over the Gothics, with a part of Saddleback in the foreground. To the left of the Gothics are the Wolf Jaws.

In line with the notch between the two high parts of the Gothics is Rocky Peak Ridge. Over the left margin of the highest part is the Giant. To the right the Gothics drop off in a deep, broad notch, over the center of which is the small and low peak of Noonmark. All along the easterly horizon, except where the Giant and Rocky Peak

Ridge blot them out, the Green Mountains are visible.

Turning back now toward Haystack and following the view to the left of its great bulk, one will find the Upper Ausable Lake almost due south. To its left the Colvin Range crosses the foreground. Beyond this range, four miles farther away, is McComb. A little more to the left, just behind the Colvin Range, is Nippletop, and slightly to its left is Mount Dix. Dial Mountain is visible over the Sawteeth, which are nearer. To the right of Nippletop and over a part of McComb one can sometimes see Pharaoh Mountain, twenty-three miles away. Just to the right of Pharaoh and sixteen miles farther away Black Mountain, beyond Lake George, may be distinguished.

Over the Upper Ausable Lake is a glimpse of Boreas Mountain, and over Boreas, if the air is clear enough, one may be able to see Crane Mountain, forty miles distant.

The distance by trail from the west peak of Saddleback to the top of Basin Mountain is a mile, and the time required from one summit to the other is about an hour.

HAYSTACK MOUNTAIN

In the opinion of many there is no summit in the Adirondacks that commands a more splendid view



THE CREST OF MOUNT HAYSTACK

than that from Haystack. It is in the midst of a great wilderness and is remote enough to give a satisfactory sense of primeval mountains and valleys. Closely at hand it looks down into the deep, wooded valley on the east that is rimmed about by the slopes of the Sawteeth, the Gothics, Saddleback, and Basin. In the opposite direction it looks across toward the great bulk of Marcy, with the wild Panther Gorge far down below.

The first recorded ascent of Haystack was that of the topographical surveyors in October, 1873. They went up from their camp above the Upper Lake, climbing the mountain by way of Bartlett Ridge, and made the first observations ever carried out from its summit, including the first determinations of the altitude of Basin, the Gothics, and Saddleback. At that time no one of the four mountains, Haystack, Basin, Gothics, or Saddleback, had appeared in any printed surveys. In the summit rock of Haystack you can find the copper bolt that they placed there.

The approach to Haystack from Basin involves a very steep descent into the deep valley at the upper part of Haystack Brook. On leaving Basin the trail starts down over bare rocks, soon enters scrubby woods, and immediately drops about as rapidly as a trail can. At three points there are short ladders.

In three quarters of an hour from the summit the trail has descended over a thousand feet. It then crosses a small brook, at once climbs steeply for a few minutes to the top of a small ridge, passes a level stretch, and arrives at the log shelter known as Sno Bird Camp. Within a few yards of the camp there is a good brook of perennial water. The distance from Basin to the shelter is a mile and a quarter.

Leaving the shelter the trail climbs rapidly for half a mile to the top of the ridge that connects Haystack and Marcy. Here there is a fork, the route to the right leading to Marcy while that to the left leads to the summit of Haystack, which is three quarters of a mile away, allowing for the course of the trail. Travelers over the great Range bound for the summit of Marcy may leave their packs at this point and make a side trip to the top of Haystack, returning to the same spot on the way to Marcy. The trip is worth many times the time and effort that it requires. The altitude at the fork is about five hundred feet above that at Sno Bird Camp.

The branch trail to the left soon reaches the summit of the rocky knob known as Little Haystack, descends the steep ledges on its farther side, and climbs the final cone of the mountain, most of the time over bare rocks. About half an hour

should be allowed for the journey from the fork to the top of the mountain. As the crest of the mountain is approached various interesting Arctic plants will be found, including the Alpine sandwort, the *Diapensia*, and others.

The view from Haystack is, first of all, that toward Marcy, which is northwest and is a mile and a half distant in an air line. The bare rock walls of Panther Gorge lead boldly up toward the summit of the mountain. The depths of the Gorge itself are in part hidden by the jutting rocks of Haystack. To the left of Marcy is the broad, smoothly rounded crown of Skylight Mountain. Between the two Santanoni is in sight, twelve miles away, with Seward on its right, still farther distant. Both of these appear as long, low mountain masses. Over Seward, and thirteen miles farther away, the tip of Mount Morris may be distinguished. It is situated near Tupper Lake.

To the left of Skylight is Allen, and almost in line with it, but farther away, is North River Mountain. To the left of Allen and North River Mountain, Vanderwhacker may be seen, seventeen miles distant. In line with Allen and North River, if the air is clear enough, one can see Snowy, thirty-six miles distant. Half way between Skylight and Allen the view picks up Blue Mountain, thirty miles away. Its top appears as if it were cut off

somewhat squarely. Between Allen and the Upper Ausable Lake one may be able to distinguish Crane Mountain, thirty-eight miles distant.

In the southeast a part of the Upper Ausable Lake is in view, with the long, undulating ridge of the Colvin Range rising behind it and to the left. Back of the right part of this range is McComb. Back of the left part of it is Nippletop, and to the rear of that is Dix, distinguished by a sharp, low peak at its right end. Almost in line with the Upper Ausable Lake, Pharaoh Mountain appears on the horizon, twenty-three miles away. To the right of Pharaoh, if the atmosphere is clear, Black Mountain is visible, thirty-nine miles away. It is situated just beyond Lake George.

The Sawteeth are nearer at hand, to the left of the long ridge that leads up to Nippletop and Dix, while on their left is the low, sharp cone of Noonmark, backed up by Rocky Peak Ridge to the left. Close to the left of the latter is the Giant, both of these rising high above the broad notch between the Sawteeth and the Gothics.

The Gothics are a broad mass with vast areas of bare ledge and with long, vertical slides on the face that is nearest. To the left of them is a part of the Wolf Jaws and again just to the left are the two summits of Saddleback, barely showing above the long ridge leading up to the high, rounded summit

of Basin. Almost in line with the Wolf Jaws is the summit of Hurricane Mountain, thirteen miles distant, and to its left, but farther away, are the Jay Mountains. Below the crest of Basin the steep, wooded slope is gashed with two ledges that form a rude X and still nearer a ledge and slide make a great 7.

To the left of Basin is Cascade, with Big Slide Mountain two and a half miles nearer. Farther to the left is the barren summit of Pitchoff, and to the left of that, eighteen miles distant, is Mount Whiteface.

The return from the summit of Haystack over Little Haystack and back to the fork where the trail comes up from Sno Bird Camp will require about twenty minutes. Continuing straight ahead at the fork and avoiding the trail to the right, the route leads through woods, crosses open knolls, and presently descends steeply. In about twenty-five minutes from the fork the path comes out on the John's Brook Trail, which leads up from Keene Valley and John's Brook Lodge. The distance down to the Lodge is four and a half miles, and to Keene Valley nine and a half miles. The altitude at this point is about seven hundred and fifty feet lower than the summit of Haystack.

Turning left on John's Brook Trail and following red markers, the route once more ascends. Part of

the footing is wet and sometimes slippery. In fifteen minutes the trail passes close to a small brook on the right. Ten minutes farther the path enters a wet, boggy area, and in another ten minutes arrives at the junction where the Van Hoevenberg Trail from Heart Lake and Adirondack Lodge, seven miles distant, comes in from the right.

The altitude at this point is about one hundred feet less than the summit of Haystack, and the remaining climb to the top of Marcy is somewhat more than four hundred feet. The route from this point to the top is over the Van Hoevenberg Trail, marked with blue discs, and the time required is about forty-five minutes. The route for the summit turns left at this junction.

The total distance by trail from the Ausable Club to the top of Marcy by the Great Range is about eleven and three quarters miles and the total tramping time is about twelve hours.

The distance from Keene Valley by way of John's Brook, Orebed Brook, and the col between Gothics and Saddleback, omitting the summit of the Gothics, is twelve and three quarters miles and the total tramping time is about twelve hours.

Return routes from the summit of Marcy are described in the preceding chapter. The view from the summit is described in Chapter VII, beginning on page 59.

CHAPTER IX

BIG SLIDE MOUNTAIN

A 4000-foot mountain, readily climbed in a half-day trip from John's Brook Lodge or a one-day journey from Keene Valley. The Great Range spread out in an impressive panorama. Other summits, including part of the Green Mountains, in view. Round trip from the Lodge, 5 miles, 4 hours. From Keene Valley 14½ miles, 8 hours.

ON the north side of John's Brook Valley, facing the Great Range on the south, stands Big Slide Mountain. Its contour is characteristic, for there is a great cliff dropping away from its crest. It commands a remarkable near-by panorama of the Great Range, a view of other more distant summits, and a sweep of the Green Mountains beyond the border of Lake Champlain. It is easy to reach in a round trip of half a day from John's Brook Lodge and is readily accessible from Keene Valley in a tramp of a single day.

Until recently Big Slide had few visitors. There was once a trail of sorts leading north from the summit into a valley drained by South Meadow Brook. Occasional climbers ascended the mountain without trail. The Adirondack Survey had a try at it October 10, 1875, but spent the whole day near the foot of the big cliff, waiting for clouds that

enveloped the summit to disperse. Now, however, trail-builders of the Adirondack Mountain Club have cut a path from John's Brook Valley, near the Lodge, to the summit, and this peak is added to the list of Adirondack heights that are readily accessible.

To reach the mountain from Keene Valley one follows the trail up John's Brook, starting from a four corners near the post-office. The route follows a public road for three quarters of a mile, keeping to the left at a fork just before reaching an iron bridge near the end of the road. Motor cars may be driven as far as the point where the road enters woods.

From this spot a trail, marked with yellow discs, leads up John's Brook Valley, with the stream on the right. Four and a half miles from the four corners a path for the Great Range, marked with blue discs, branches to the left. Continuing straight ahead the John's Brook Trail soon crosses the main stream and presently passes the route to Big Slide Mountain, which branches to the right. John's Brook Lodge is situated a few minutes beyond this point, on the John's Brook Trail. The distance from the four corners in Keene Valley to the lodge is five miles. The lodge is open to trappers and provides meals and lodging.

The start of the trail for Big Slide Mountain is

marked by a sign and is just a little west or upstream from the place where John's Brook Trail crosses Slide Mountain Brook. The path cuts across through small trees and in a few rods comes out upon the brook.

For a mile or more the route follows the brook, sometimes on one bank, sometimes on the other, often over bare rocks or ledges. The brook bed was scoured out wide and deep, and piled high in places with logs and *débris*, by a big storm in 1924. As the trail ascends it soon reaches elevations from which views begin to open out to the south toward the Wolf Jaws and the Gothics, beyond the valley of John's Brook.

A mile and a quarter from the lodge the trail leaves Slide Mountain Brook squarely on the left, climbs the bank, and enters a logging road just beyond. The altitude here is about six hundred feet above that of the lodge. This point is half-way to the summit of the mountain and represents about one third of the total climb. From the lodge to this point requires three quarters of an hour to an hour.

The route now follows an old logging-road for nearly an hour, trending for a time somewhat west and then swinging north, skirting a ridge on the right. Twenty minutes after leaving Slide Mountain Brook the summit of the mountain, with its

big cliff, comes into sight ahead. Half an hour from the brook the trail passes above an old logging camp, situated two hundred yards to the left, down the slope.

Toward the farther end of this stretch the trail climbs more rapidly. After a time it enters woods and begins the final steep ascent to the summit of the mountain. It is now in the midst of thick-growing evergreens and is circling the east side of the big cliff. Twenty minutes after entering woods the path reaches the crest of the mountain, coming out upon the top of the cliff. The total distance from the lodge to the summit is two and a half miles and the time required is about two hours.

The crown of Big Slide is largely covered with evergreen forest and therefore does not offer an unobstructed panorama. Nevertheless the open ledge at the top of the great cliff permits the climber to command a wide view toward the Great Range and the high summits in that region, while vistas toward other points of the compass include many other parts of the Adirondacks and a section of the Green Mountains.

The view south is first of all a striking, close-up panorama of the Great Range, to the south across the valley of John's Brook. The two prominent heights of the Wolf Jaws stand out on the left. They are followed on the right by a part of Arm-

strong and then by the slide-scored Gothics, which are almost directly south, and four miles distant. To the left of Armstrong the high summit of Mount Dix, eight miles distant, is visible.

To the right of the Gothics rises Saddleback, with two summits and a shallow sag between. To its right is a steep-sided notch, with a sharp rise and then another leading up to the crest of Basin. Next to Basin, a mile and a half farther away, is Haystack. To the right of Haystack stands Mount Marcy, six miles distant. The whole skyline of the range is a succession of sharp angles and steep slopes.

Mount Colden rises boldly to the right of Marcy and on its right is the high crest of MacIntyre, six and a half miles distant. After MacIntyre the view sweeps farther toward the horizon, taking in the bulk of Seward, seventeen miles away. Then Street Mountain rises to the right, nine miles nearer, with the Sawteeth Range behind it, while Ampersand is visible a little farther to the right.

In the north Whiteface is in view over the left of Pitchoff Mountain, with Cascade and Porter, two and a half miles away, to the right. Hurricane, with a fire-tower on its summit, is northeast. Tripod and Spread Eagle are on its right, somewhat nearer, and are followed by the big bulk of the Giant, eight miles away. In the direction of

Hurricane the Green Mountains come into view, and a stretch of their skyline is in sight along the easterly horizon.

The return from the summit of Big Slide Mountain to John's Brook Lodge will require an hour and a half. The journey from the summit to the four corners in Keene Valley can be accomplished in three or four hours.

CHAPTER X

MOUNT SKYLIGHT

An easy side trip from the Four Corners' Shelter on the route to Marcy by the Opalescent or by Elk Lake. The view noteworthy, especially that into Panther Gorge. Round trip from the shelter 1 mile, 1 hour.

MOUNT SKYLIGHT is a broadly rounded mass lying southwest of Mount Marcy, its summit distant from that of Marcy about a mile in an air line. It is essentially a part of the range of which Marcy is the crowning crest, and in fact is separated from Marcy by only a shallow col. As one looks at Skylight from other mountains it appears flat, wooded, and uninteresting. Nevertheless, its crown commands an excellent view and is relatively open, with only such low-growing, scrubby trees as offer no obstruction to the panorama.

There is a short and easy trail to Skylight from Four Corners' Shelter, which is situated in the col southwest of the summit of Marcy. The trail to Marcy by way of the Opalescent River and Feldspar Brook passes this lean-to and offers ready access to the summit of Skylight. Also, the trail from Elk Lake, which ascends Marcy from the

south, climbs to the same col and passes the same shelter.

The distance from the lean-to to the crest of Skylight is half a mile and the total climb from the shelter is about six hundred feet. The round trip to the summit and return can be made in an hour, allowing time for enjoying the view. The trail climbs rapidly but is nowhere excessively steep.

So far as records tell the story, Mount Skylight was first climbed October 28, 1873, by Colvin and his men, engaged in the topographic survey of the Adirondacks. They were camped below the foot of Panther Gorge and came from that direction to the col between Marcy and Skylight. The upper part of their journey from the col to the top of the mountain they found difficult because of dense evergreens. Any one who has visited Skylight, following the trail that is now cut through these evergreens, will appreciate the sort of going that the explorers found in making their way up without a trail. The present trail was cut out two or three years after the first visit of Colvin and his party.

On their way down they took observations on the height of Mount Redfield, which was given its name by Colvin. The same afternoon they visited the little, boggy pond, situated on a bench at the foot of Redfield's summit, and christened it Moss Lake.

From the top of Skylight there is an impressive view down into Panther Gorge, with all its savage wildness. Marcy rises high on the left, with bare, rock ledges sweeping down into the Gorge. Haystack, almost equally austere, rises on the right.

To the right of Haystack the long crest of Bartlett Ridge stretches away toward the deep valley surrounding the Upper Ausable Lake. The lake itself is behind a part of the ridge. Over the ridge the long line of the Colvin Range crosses the view, its crest rising in many lesser heights. Behind it, in turn, is McComb on the right, then Dix and Nippletop on the left. Pharaoh Mountain is in line with the right end of Bartlett Ridge and is twenty-four miles away. Black Mountain beyond Lake George is to the right of Pharaoh and thirty-nine miles distant.

To the left of Haystack and two and a half miles away the summit of Basin Mountain looms up, while on its right and two miles farther are the Gothics. In line with the latter is the Giant, eleven and a half miles distant. To the left of Basin, Hurricane comes into view, fifteen miles away.

In the south and southwest Allen and Redfield are near at hand, the former on the left. Adams, five miles away, is to the right of Redfield, and Cliff Mountain two and a half miles distant, still farther

to the right. The big bulk of Santanoni Mountain, eleven miles away, is in line with Mount Adams and Cliff Mountain.

The MacIntyre Range is northwest, with Colden somewhat nearer and standing out toward the right end of the range. Over the left end of the MacIntyre Range a part of Seward is visible, while the crest of Mount Morris, twenty-seven miles distant, may be distinguished in the same direction.

If you are camping overnight at Four Corners' Shelter, Mount Skylight offers an excellent early-morning trip, occupying an hour for the climb to its summit and return. A sunrise over the mountains to the east is memorable and is well worth the moderate effort required to reach the viewpoint that Skylight affords. At any time of day the view into Panther Gorge is noteworthy.

Mount Skylight was given its name in 1857 by Frederick S. Perkins and Old Mountain Phelps, because of a rock near the summit that seemed to them to have the aspect of a skylight as they looked at it from Mount Marcy.

CHAPTER XI

MOUNT COLDEN

An interesting mountain with a varied and beautiful view.

Best ascended as a part of a two-days' circuit, including Avalanche Pass and Lakes Avalanche and Colden, making a round trip of $13\frac{3}{4}$ miles requiring 10 to 14 hours of tramping and climbing. One of the most attractive trips in the Adirondacks.

MOUNT COLDEN presents widely different aspects from different points of view. As you look across at it from the trail that leads to the summit of MacIntyre from Lake Colden, you see a broad rock mass with a rounded, bald crown and a slide-scored face. From Adams, on the southwest, Colden is a sharp peak, only a little less in height than MacIntyre on its left. From Basin or Saddleback in the Great Range it is a long mountain with a high central crest and with lesser heights on right and left.

The mountain offers ample reward to any who will climb it. While it is four hundred feet lower than the crowning peak of the MacIntyre Range on the northwest, and six hundred feet lower than Marcy on the southeast, it does not lose by this fact. Both MacIntyre and Marcy rise boldly and impressively as you look at them from Colden, and

each helps to complete a striking panorama. Besides this, the trail to Colden from the lake of the same name is attractive. The summit of the mountain, with its deeply fractured ledges, is interesting.

It is said that the Indians named Colden 'Ouno-war-lah,' meaning the 'scalped mountain.' It may well have been called that because of the great, bare, and smooth ledges that extend from well up on its crest down to the waters of Avalanche Lake.

In 1836 David Henderson, who was a partner in the MacIntyre Iron Works, Abraham Van Santvoord, and David C. Colden spent some time at the works, explored the Opalescent River, and ascended to the lake lying at the foot of the southerly slopes of the mountain. Colden was a grandson of Governor-General Cadwalader Colden. Both the lake and the mountain were soon named in honor of him. About the same time or a little later it was proposed to name the mountain for Duncan McMartin, one of the proprietors of the iron works. Thus it came about that for a period there was a confusion of names. In time, however, the name McMartin was gradually dropped and the name Colden persisted.

The first ascent of the mountain of which there is record was made in 1849 by Alexander Ralph



ACROSS LAKE COLDEN TOWARD AVALANCHE PASS

and Robert Clarke, both of whom were identified for a time with the iron works. They approached it by way of the Opalescent River as far as Lake Colden, thence along the shore of that lake and through the woods to Avalanche Lake, and from that point to the summit.

A part of the interest and charm of Mount Colden is derived from the two bodies of waters that lie at its feet, Avalanche Lake and Lake Colden. The rock walls of the mountain descend almost without break into the first of these two lakes. They help to make it one of the most austere and yet beautiful lakes in the east. Indeed, one may question whether there is another body of water of similar setting east of the Rocky Mountains. One means of access to Mount Colden leads by this lake.

Lake Colden is a broader and larger body of water, lying southwest of the highest part of the mountain, but rimmed about by the steep and wooded spurs that lead up toward the summit as well as by rugged and deeply wooded slopes of the MacIntyre Range on the opposite side of the lake. The stream that drains Avalanche Lake passes through half a mile of marshy and rocky woods into Lake Colden, which is ninety-nine feet lower.

The usual means of access to Mount Colden is from Adirondack Lodge, on Heart Lake, ten miles

south of Lake Placid by highway. The trail that is followed to the base of the mountain is the one leading to Marcy by way of Lake Colden, the Opalescent, and Feldspar, and is described in detail beginning on page 72. The route begins at Adirondack Lodge at Heart Lake, follows the blue markers of the Van Hoevenberg Trail for two and a quarter miles, as far as the shelter on the farther side of the dam across Marcy Brook, then turns to the right and follows yellow markers upstream. Crossing a branch of Marcy Brook at the end of three and a quarter miles the route immediately passes another shelter known as Avalanche Camp, continues upstream for fifteen minutes and there arrives at a fork where one of the trails to the summit of Mount Colden branches to the left.

The total distance from Adirondack Lodge to this point is three and a half miles and the time required is two to two and a half hours.

If the mountain is ascended from this direction the climber will bear to the left at this fork and follow a blazed trail, which ascends along the crest of a northerly ridge. The grade to the summit is steady, though not excessively steep. The total climb from the fork to the top of the mountain is about eighteen hundred feet, and the distance is somewhat less than two miles.

The other route continues to follow the yellow

markers through Avalanche Pass, proceeds along the steep and boulder-strewn shore of Avalanche Lake, descends through the stretch of woods between Avalanche and Colden, bearing to the left at a fork before Colden is reached, and proceeds along the left shore of the latter lake. When half-way down the lake a trail forks to the left for the summit of Mount Colden. Ten minutes beyond this point are the log shelters at the foot of the lake.

A beautiful, round-trip journey of two days may be enjoyed by combining a visit to Avalanche Pass and Lake Colden with an ascent of Mount Colden. The first day one will take the trail just described from Adirondack Lodge through Avalanche Pass to the Lake Colden shelters, camping there for the night. The second day the route retraces this trail for ten minutes to the fork where the Mount Colden trail leaves the lake, then climbs the mountain by that trail, descends it on the northerly side, joins the trail connecting Avalanche Pass and Adirondack Lodge, and follows that route back to the lodge. The distance from Adirondack Lodge to the shelters at the foot of Lake Colden is six and a quarter miles and the tramping time required is four to six hours. The return journey over the summit of Mount Colden requires about seven and a half miles of tramping and six to eight hours.

The trail from Lake Colden to the summit of the mountain was built by Arthur S. Hopkins and Clinton West in 1923. Leaving the lake as described above, the path ascends steadily for a time in beautiful woods, presently swings to the left, climbs rather steeply, and crosses a brook coming from the right. The altitude here is seven hundred feet above the lake. Continuing to climb at a rather sharp angle in the midst of timber, the trail reaches the edge of the forest when about fourteen hundred feet above the lake. Just before this it passes close to conspicuous big rocks.

In an hour and a half after leaving the lake the trail comes out in the open, passes through a patch of scrubby trees and then climbs over ledges covered with low scrub and laurel. Winding about to avoid deep clefts it gradually ascends to the summit. The distance from the lake to the top of the mountain is a little less than two miles and the rise in altitude is nineteen hundred and forty-nine feet.

Experienced climbers often ascend Mount Colden by way of the big dyke that is a prominent feature of the mountain on the side toward Avalanche Lake. This route is not to be attempted except by those who are thoroughly skilled in such climbing. The start is made by following the east shore of Avalanche Lake from the outlet to a brook

and thence up the brook into the dyke. The climbing is exceedingly steep and a rope may be needed. After passing the most difficult part it is necessary to climb out of the dyke onto the main rock slide. The latter is then ascended to the summit.

From the crest of Colden Mount Marcy rises prominently in the southeast, its summit two miles away in an air line. Between Colden and Marcy is the deep, wooded valley of the Opalescent River. To the right of Marcy is the broadly rounded summit of Mount Skylight, with the crest of Boreas barely visible, six miles farther away. Mount Redfield is to the right of Skylight, about the same distance away as that mountain and somewhat less in height.

The low and detached eminence of Cheney Cobble lies to the right of Redfield, three miles farther away. It is followed by North River Mountain, which is somewhat higher. To the right of the latter Vanderwhacker is in view, seventeen miles distant, and is followed by Snowy, thirty-five miles away. Mount Adams, with a fire-tower on its summit, comes next, four and a half miles distant, while three miles away and slightly to the right is Calamity Mountain.

Between Calamity and Mount Colden is the Flowed Lands, and still nearer, deep in the valley, is a part of Lake Colden. Fairly in line with

Calamity Mountain one can see Blue Mountain, twenty-eight miles distant.

Over the right of the Flowed Lands and Lake Colden lies Santanoni Mountain, nine miles away, with the MacIntyre Range beginning to the right, and Seward above the left part of MacIntyre. Directly opposite Mount Colden in the northwest the MacIntyre Mountains reach their highest elevation with the peak named Algonquin. The distance to the highest point is two miles.

In the north, to the right of the MacIntyres, Lake Placid is in view, with Whiteface next, seventeen miles away. The Sentinel Range lies near Whiteface and is followed by the bare rocks of Pitchoff, the burned summit of Cascade, the peak of Porter close to it, and the prominent summit of Big Slide, with a sheer cliff dropping from its crest. In line with Big Slide, but fourteen miles farther away, is the Jay Range.

Hurricane Mountain with a fire-tower on its summit lies to the right of Big Slide, fifteen miles distant. Spread Eagle is farther along and is followed by the Giant and Rocky Peak Ridge, which are almost east by compass and are thirteen miles away. Much nearer in this direction are the Wolf Jaws, followed by the Gothics, Basin, and then the cone of Marcy.

Along the horizon in the east the Green Moun-

tains are visible from the direction of Big Slide around to that of the Giant. Mount Mansfield, the highest point of the Green Mountains, is just to the right of Hurricane. Camel's Hump, or Couching Lion, appears between Spread Eagle and the Giant.

It is possible to reach Mount Colden from Lake Sanford, by a trail that follows the valley of the Opalescent River, giving access to Lake Colden. This route is described in Chapter VIII on 'The Trails to Marcy.'

CHAPTER XII

MOUNT MACINTYRE

The second highest summit in the Adirondacks and a splendid mountain. The view includes a vast region and almost numberless peaks. Direct trail from Adirondack Lodge, reached by public road. Lodge to summit and return, 9 miles, 7 to 8 hours. For a two-days trip a circuit available through Avalanche Pass to Lake Colden, camping at shelters, thence over MacIntyre and back to Lodge.

THE second highest summit of the Adirondacks is the crowning peak of the MacIntyre Range, four miles northwest of Mount Marcy. The peak itself is usually known as Mount MacIntyre, taking the name of the whole range, though as an individual summit, as distinguished from other peaks of the MacIntyre group, it is properly called Algonquin.

The long mountain mass of which it is the highest point extends for about eight miles in a northeast and a southwest direction and is three miles wide at its broadest part. A forested bowl, with Heart Lake at its margin, bounds the range on the northeast. On the northwest it is separated from MacNaughton, Wallace, and Street mountains by Indian Pass and the valleys of the streams that flow north and south from that deep cleft. Lake Henderson lies at the southwest end of the range.



LOOKING SOUTHWEST FROM INDIAN PASS

On the southeast it is separated from neighboring mountains by Calamity Brook, the Flowed Lands, Lake Colden, Avalanche Lake, the narrow depths of Avalanche Pass, and the valley of Marcy Brook.

Essentially the range is one long mountain with a crest rising gradually on the southwest and dropping off sharply on the northeast. The peaks of this crest, beginning on the southwest, are Clinton, 4411 feet high; Iroquois, 4855; Boundary, 4920; Algonquin, 5112; and Wright, 4585. The first and the last of these five were named for Governor Clinton and Governor Silas Wright. Iroquois honors the Indian nation that lived in the country to the south, Algonquin that of the north. Boundary Peak is so named to designate the theoretical dividing line between the territories of these two hostile Indian groups, though the nations themselves were far from acknowledging and peaceably maintaining any territorial limit.

The upper part of the highest peak of MacIntyre is largely open rock. Because of its height it offers to the climber not only an unobstructed panorama but the near-by interest of Alpine plants. Several species that are found on Mount Marcy grow here. In addition to these there is a surprising patch of closed gentians just below the summit. As for the view, it ranks among the best. A vast stretch of wilderness to northwest and south is displayed,

while to east and southeast the great company of high peaks of the Adirondacks stand in view. The mountain is reasonably accessible from a public road and may be climbed in a round trip of a single day.

A copper bolt in the top of Mount MacIntyre is the symbol of visits that were paid to it in September, 1873, in the course of the topographic survey of the Adirondack region. The name of the mountain was given it in honor of Archibald MacIntyre, who was one of the proprietors of the MacIntyre Iron Works and was a member of the party, led by Professor Ebenezer Emmons, that made the first recorded ascent, August 8, 1837. It is said that the Indian name of the mountain was 'He-no-ga,' meaning 'home of the thunderer.'

Indian Pass, which separates the northwest side of MacIntyre from Wallface Mountain, is an impressive defile. On the side toward MacIntyre the slopes are precipitous and wooded enough to be interesting, but on the side toward Wallface there is a tremendous, bare, vertical cliff more than one thousand feet high. The bottom of the pass at its narrowest part is strewn with great boulders, some of them as big as small houses. Through the pass runs a trail, skirting the whole length of the MacIntyre Range.

Access to the summit of MacIntyre from a pub-

lic road is provided by a trail which starts at Adirondack Lodge on Heart Lake. The trail was opened in 1881 by Henry Van Hoevenberg. The lodge is reached by a road leading south from Lake Placid, turning to the right at North Elba. There are log shelters and camp sites as well as a central lodge, and a caretaker is in charge. Trampers are welcome.

For the first half mile the route follows the Van Hoevenberg Trail, which leads eventually to the summit of Mount Marcy and is marked with blue discs. Just after crossing a stream which comes from the right the trail to Mount MacIntyre, marked with yellow discs, forks to the right from the Van Hoevenberg Trail. There is a sign here indicating the summit of Mount MacIntyre and another sign indicating the various destinations of the Van Hoevenberg Trail. The distance from this point to the summit of MacIntyre is about four miles and the ascent is a little less than three thousand feet. The time required to the summit is four hours for the average tramp.

For nearly an hour the trail follows an old logging-road, steadily ascending. Two streams are crossed, one in about twenty or twenty-five minutes and another fifteen minutes beyond. After a time the route enters an area that has been burned over and presently arrives at a long stretch that is

almost level. Beyond this it passes a bare, rocky eminence on the right. The altitude here is about six hundred feet above that of Heart Lake.

Continuing through a logged region the path climbs steadily, passes a stream which comes down from the left, and when about three and a half miles from Adirondack Lodge approaches an area of woods that escaped both fire and lumbermen. Entering this and climbing steadily it presently begins to emerge from the scrub timber and finally comes out on bare rocks. From this point to the summit requires about half an hour of climbing, mostly over ledges and rocks, though occasionally through small hollows.

Another and an exceptionally interesting route to the summit of MacIntyre is by way of Avalanche Pass and Lake Colden, thence up a steep trail that climbs from the margin of Colden directly to the summit of the mountain. From this point the trail described in the preceding paragraphs may be followed back to Adirondack Lodge, thus making a circuit. A vigorous trampler can do this circuit in a single day, but it is too far and involves too much climbing for any except one who is used to tramping.

If the round trip is to be done in one day, the trampler will bear to the right at a fork just before reaching Lake Colden and thereby will come out

directly at the foot of the trail from Lake Colden to MacIntyre, avoiding the circuit of the lake and saving more than a mile of distance. The total round trip by this route is about twelve and a half miles.

If two days are available the first may be spent in the journey to Lake Colden, where there are log lean-tos at the foot of the lake, and the second in the trip over the summit of MacIntyre and back to Heart Lake. The route from Adirondack Lodge to the foot of Lake Colden has already been described beginning on page 72. The distance is about six and a quarter miles and the time required by the average tramper is four to six hours. The distance from the shelters at the foot of Lake Colden to the summit of MacIntyre and on down to Adirondack Lodge is seven and a half miles.

The trail from Lake Colden to the summit of MacIntyre, was opened in 1901. It begins near the fire-ranger's cabin, which is situated on the north-western shore of the lake. From the shelters at the foot of the lake the cabin is reached by crossing the dam at the outlet of the lake, climbing a short ladder over the cliff at the farther end, turning right and following a path that skirts the lake shore.

Crossing a stream close to the cabin the route soon forks. The trail to the right at this fork leads on around the lake and connects with the trail

through Avalanche Pass. The path to the left, marked with blue discs, is the one for the summit of MacIntyre.

In the next hour and a half the trail repeatedly crosses a brook that comes tumbling down the mountain, once zigzagging back and forth four times within eight minutes. In about half an hour after leaving the cabin the path climbs a long, sloping, bare ledge and soon discloses a splendid view of Mount Colden, back to the east, across the valley in which Lake Colden lies. The altitude here is about five hundred feet above that of the lake.

Continuing its task of climbing, and crossing back and forth over the brook, the trail rises steadily and in many places steeply. In about two and a half hours from Lake Colden the path comes out upon the bare rocks in the low col or saddle between the highest peak of MacIntyre and the summit lying next to the southwest. Here it swings to the right, continues on up over rocky slopes and ledges, and in another twenty minutes arrives at the crest of the mountain. The altitude here is 2348 feet above that of Lake Colden. The distance from the shelters at the foot of the lake to the summit is about three miles.

The trail from MacIntyre to Adirondack Lodge will be found leading in a northerly direction from

the summit and is marked with yellow discs. The time required from the top of the mountain to the lodge is two and a half to four hours.

For the first fifteen minutes the trail leads over open rocks with occasional short, steep descents. It then passes through evergreen woods for a time but in half an hour comes out in a logged area and for the next hour is in a region that was burned, years ago. An hour and a quarter from the summit the path enters a long, level stretch at the end of which it again descends. Fifteen minutes later it joins a logging-road and follows this for forty minutes or more. Finally, it comes out in the Van Hoevenberg Trail, which is marked with blue discs. Here the route turns to the left for Adirondack Lodge, which is half a mile distant.

The view from MacIntyre embraces a vast area. Marcy rises over the left shoulder of Mount Colden, which is two miles away in the southeast and is strongly marked with slides starting from a point near its top and diverging as they descend. To the left and much farther away is Mount Dix, its summit eleven miles distant, while directly in line with it, but two miles nearer and a little lower, is Nippletop. In the remote distance, slightly to the right of Dix and Nippletop, peaks of the Green Mountains beyond Rutland are visible, more than fifty miles away.

Just to the left of Dix, Basin Mountain stands out clearly, five and a half miles distant, its higher summit sharp and prominent. Saddleback is to the left, and behind it in turn on its left are the Gothics, showing a broad, slide-scored mass. Over the Gothics other peaks of the Green Mountains are in view, including Grant, Roosevelt, Wilson, and Breadloaf.

Armstrong and Wolf Jaws are to the left of the Gothics and a mile farther away. They are followed by Rocky Peak Ridge and the Giant, which are fourteen miles distant, beyond the valley of the Ausable East Branch. In line with Rocky Peak Ridge is Lincoln Mountain in Vermont, on the distant horizon. To the left of the Giant but much lower is Spread Eagle and over the left part of its low bulk is Camel's Hump, or Couching Lion, of the Green Mountains.

Big Slide Mountain, six and a half miles distant, follows, with Hurricane, fifteen miles away in line with it, and in the distance, Mount Mansfield, highest of the Green Mountains. To the northeast Cascade and Porter are in line with the Jay Mountains, while Pitchoff is on the left. Again to the left is the Sentinel Range, and this is followed by Whiteface, which is in line with Heart Lake. At the foot of Whiteface lies Lake Placid.

In the northwest the view swings over the Lower

Saranac Lake to Saint Regis Mountain, twenty-five miles distant. A little farther to the left is Ampersand, twelve and a half miles away, over a part of the Sawteeth Range. Seward is next, and then comes Wallace, near at hand. It is followed in turn by the broad bulk of Santanoni.

Down along the line of the MacIntyre Range Blue Mountain stands out, twenty-eight miles away. To the left again and thirty-six miles distant is Snowy, with Indian Lake on its left. Much nearer is Mount Adams, with a fire-tower on its summit, over the slopes of Calamity Mountain. To the left of Adams the cone of Vanderwhacker is in view, eighteen miles away.

At the foot of MacIntyre lie Lake Colden and the Flowed Lands, the former to the left, the latter to the right. Over the Flowed Lands is North River Mountain, with Cheney Cobble close by, while over Lake Colden are Cliff Mountain and Mount Redfield. Skylight follows Redfield and in turn is followed by Marcy.

Behind this array of summits lie many others. Except for Marcy, MacIntyre probably commands as far-reaching a panorama as any summit in the Adirondacks.

CHAPTER XIII

MOUNT WHITEFACE

An isolated peak, rising from the shore of Lake Placid to a height of 4871 feet above sea level, and embracing a view extending from the Green Mountains to the high Adirondack summits in the south and the lake region in the west. Three trails to the top, any of which is readily covered in a single day.

STANDING apart from other major summits of the Adirondacks, and rising to a bare rock cone 4871 feet above sea level, Mount Whiteface is one of the most conspicuous of Adirondack peaks. Close by on the southwest, at the foot of its steep slopes, lies the broad expanse of Lake Placid. On the south the deep cleft of Wilmington Notch separates it from the Sentinel Range. On the northwest a high valley lies between it and the Wilmington Mountains.

The summit of Whiteface offers to the climber varied rewards. The view toward the Great Range and other mountains in the south is one of much interest. Like the teeth of a saw the skyline of the range crosses the view seventeen miles away, the slopes and steep pitches as clean-cut as steel notches. At the foot of the mountain on the southwest the eye sweeps over Lake Placid with its

islands, and in the distance picks up other Adirondack waters in their setting of forest and mountain. Toward the east no other heights rise to obstruct the long and interesting skyline of the Green Mountains, plainly visible for more than fifty miles of their course.

The mountain has long been a favored one with climbers. It is one of the few Adirondack summits that shared in the early interest in bridle paths and horseback trips to mountain peaks, an interest that reached its height in the White Mountain region in the sixties and seventies.

On Whiteface there have been two paths used part-way by horses, and one used all of the way to the summit. One of the paths started from a point near the Eagle Eyrie, adjacent to the shore of Lake Placid, and made its way steeply to the top. It was not found to be a desirable route and was abandoned. The second, built about 1872, started from a road leading east from Franklin Falls, north of the mountain, and climbed by a northerly ridge to a point just east of the summit. The lower part of this was built for horse drawn vehicles; the upper as a foot-path. The third left the road that leads from Wilmington to Franklin Falls, beginning near the highest point of that road and ascending the mountain by a route near the lesser height known as Marble Mountain, thence

following a course west and southwest to the summit cone. This is the route over which horses were taken all of the way to the top. The path was used by an innkeeper in Wilmington, who kept saddle horses and hired boys to lead them over the path.

In 1878 the actual height of Whiteface was determined by running a line of levels to its crest. Already leveling had proceeded from the known altitude of Lake Champlain to the summit of Mount Marcy, with a branch line through the pass between Cascade and Pitchoff mountains. Connecting with this branch line at North Elba, the surveyors measured to Mirror Lake and Lake Placid and thence up the steep southwest face of Whiteface. Their measurements placed the altitude at 4871.655 feet.

Of the three present trails to the top of Whiteface, that from the shore of Lake Placid is the shortest, but the route that begins at a public road a mile from Wilmington Village is the most satisfactory, offering several good outlooks and attaining the summit without difficult grades. The route from the north, starting near Franklin Falls, is least used of the three.

The trail from Lake Placid begins at Whiteface Landing, at the northeast angle of the lake. For the first mile there is little climbing, the trail being occupied with making its way to Whiteface Brook.

Turning now up the valley of the brook the path follows the stream closely, crossing it several times, and presently climbing more briskly. In an hour and a half to two hours from the lake the trail passes an open-front log shelter which faces toward a ravine. There is a spring near the shelter and a brook in the bottom of the ravine. Beyond this point the path climbs more rapidly, passes two other springs, and finally comes out on bare rock, which it ascends very steeply to the summit.

The distance from the lake to the summit is about four miles and the time required for the ascent is three and a half to four hours. The descent by this trail occupies two to three hours.

The trail from the east begins at a public road about a mile from Wilmington Village. At a four corners, a quarter of a mile from the village, where the motor thoroughfare that leads from Lake Placid to Wilmington turns to the right into Wilmington, the route turns to the left and proceeds uphill. The beginning of the trail will be found on the left, six tenths of a mile from the four corners. There is a small farmhouse situated near the place where the path starts.

For the first ten minutes the route follows an abandoned road, crossing the main stream within a few yards of the highway, and a branch stream a short distance beyond. Where the abandoned road

bears to the right and again crosses the branch stream, the trail keeps to the left. From this point to the summit of the mountain it is a well-marked and unmistakable foot-path.

About half an hour from the highway the path turns to the left. The brook is close by on the right. Now the trail begins to climb more briskly, though not steeply. In three quarters of an hour it passes over the side of a knoll in the midst of alders and birches, with the mountain in view ahead and the waters of Lake Champlain in sight to the rear. Ten minutes beyond this the trail surmounts an open ledge, from which there is an excellent view to the east, across Lake Champlain.

Continuing over a burned knoll and surmounting bare ridges, the route passes through a grove of large birches and again surmounts a knob from which there is an excellent view to the southwest. The distance to this point is three and a half miles and the rise in altitude from the public road is about twenty-five hundred feet. The remaining climb to the top of the mountain is about one thousand feet, and the remaining distance two and a half miles.

Presently, the trail passes out of the logged and burned area and follows an almost level ridge. There is a spring here, close to the path, and just beyond it there is a small brook which comes from

the right. The summit cone of the mountain, with its fire-tower, is in view ahead on the left. A few steps beyond this point a trail comes in from the right, connecting with the path that descends a northerly ridge of the mountain in the direction of Franklin Falls.

Proceeding up a gentle ascent the trail arrives at an open-front log lean-to, situated close to the fire observer's cabin. From this shelter there is a remarkable panorama to the east, including the Green Mountains from Camel's Hump to Bread-loaf. The altitude at the shelter is about twenty-nine hundred feet above the highway. Just north of it there is a small brook.

Five minutes beyond this point the route from Franklin Falls comes in on the right. The path to the summit soon leads over open rock, surmounting the final cone of the mountain by moderate grades. About half an hour above the lean-to it reaches the crest of the mountain and the fire observer's tower.

The return journey to the highway by this route requires from three to four hours.

The high peaks of the Adirondacks lie to the south as you look from the summit of Whiteface. They begin a little east of south with the Giant, seventeen miles away. A part of Rocky Peak Ridge shows behind it, and the cone of Hurricane

Mountain, with its fire-tower, a little to the left. The Sentinel Range is in line with the Giant, but much nearer, just beyond a spur of Whiteface.

To the right of the Giant the skyline drops, then rises again in Mount Dix, with McComb a little lower and just visible on its right. To the right of McComb are the Wolf Jaws and behind them, in turn, Nippletop. Almost in line with Nippletop, but nine miles nearer, is Cascade and still nearer in the same line is the long, bare ridge of Pitchoff.

Big Slide is to the right of Cascade and two miles farther away. Behind it from left to right are the Gothics, Saddleback, and Basin, the latter with a high crest. The cone of Haystack follows Basin, and this in turn leads up by a long slope to the summit of Marcy, which is seventeen and a half miles distant.

Somewhat to the right of Marcy Mount Colden stands out plainly, and on its right the MacIntyre Range bulks prominently on the skyline, showing two principal peaks and one or two lower heights. Indian Pass is to the right of MacIntyre and is bordered by Mount Wallface. It is directly in line with Connery Pond at the foot of Whiteface.

To the right of Connery Pond and a little farther away is Lake Placid Village, at the foot of Mirror Lake, close to the farther left-hand corner

of Lake Placid. Cobble Hill is to the left of the village. In line with Cobble is Mount Santanoni, twenty miles away. In line with Mirror Lake, Blue Mountain can be distinguished, low on the horizon, forty-two miles distant.

Moose Island and Buck Island in Lake Placid appear as if one and merge with the land at the farther end of the lake. The left margin of the two islands shows what appears to be a bay, where the lake divides them. In line with this bay Mount Seward rises on the horizon. Over the right margin of the farther island is Mount Scarface, eleven miles away. In line with the right margin of Lake Placid is Ampersand, though its summit does not stand out on the horizon. Mount Morris, thirty-two miles distant, follows it closely.

The slopes lead up from the right shore of Lake Placid to the prominent heights of Mount McKenzie and Moose Mountain. Just visible over the top of the former is a part of Upper Saranac Lake, with Middle Saranac on its left. Another part of Upper Saranac is in view to the right of the crown of Moose, in line with Colby Pond near Saranac village. To the right of Upper Saranac the view includes a part of Saint Regis Lake, with Saint Regis Mountain behind it though not rising prominently.

In the northwest several sections of Saranac

River are in sight, looking like parts of a lake. East of north Silver Lake is in view, with the broad bulk of Lyon Mountain on the horizon beyond it.

In the northeast the view picks up a part of Lake Champlain, continuing around to the east. Behind it the Green Mountains extend as an undulating line along the horizon, beginning at the left with summits north of Mount Mansfield and extending for more than fifty miles south. Almost due east Poke-o-Moonshine, with a tower on its irregular top, shuts out a part of Lake Champlain. Farther to the right the Jay Range and Saddleback again shut out the view of the lake. These, in turn, are followed by the mountains leading to Hurricane and the Giant.

The crest of Whiteface is open rock with no trees to obstruct the view, but the visitor who wishes to mount still higher may climb to the observation room at the top of a steel tower on the summit. While the observer is on duty the tower is open to the public.

Mount Whiteface has borne its present name since early years, for it was set down as 'Whiteface' in a Gazetteer published in 1813. The Indians are said to have called it by terms of like meaning, one of which is quoted as 'Thei-a-no-gu-en,' meaning a white head, and another as 'Wa-he-

par-te-nie,' derived from two words, one of which signified 'white' and the other 'to go forward.' The view from the summit was described in the Gazetteer mentioned.

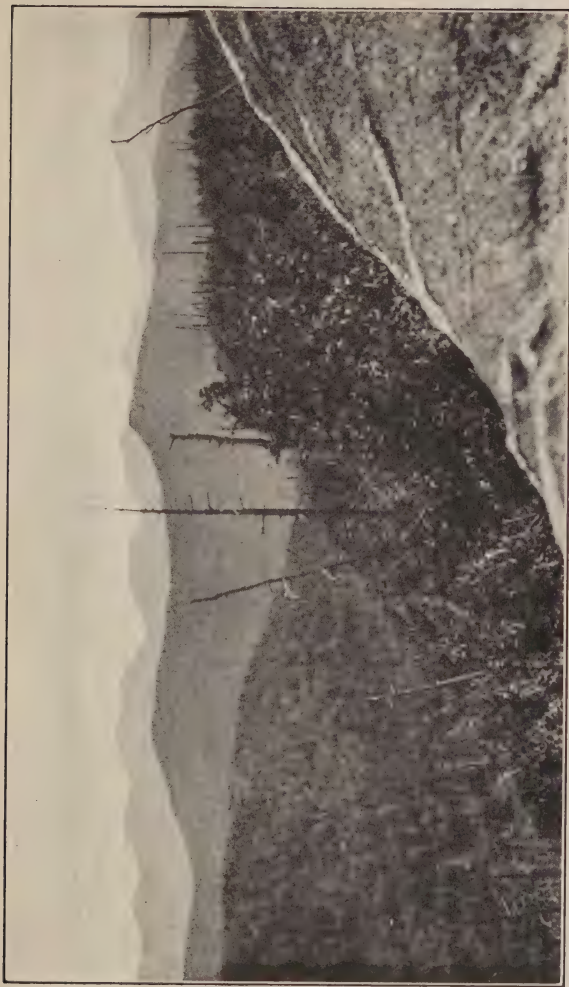
CHAPTER XIV

CASCADE MOUNTAIN

A mountain with a bare rock crest from which there is a panorama covering all points of the compass, including a particularly good view of the Great Range. The round trip, highway to summit and return, easily accomplished in half a day. Total distance, 5 miles.

ONE of the striking panoramas of high peaks, from Keene Valley along the skyline of the Great Range to Marcy and on to Colden and MacIntyre, is that from the summit of Cascade Mountain, which rises steeply above the Cascade Lakes, twelve miles from Lake Placid. The journey to the summit from a public road is a climb of about two thousand feet, and the round trip is five miles. The tramp from highway to summit and return can be made in half a day.

Cascade Mountain lies midway in a series of summits beginning with Whiteface on the north and extending south to the Great Range. The old trail up the mountain started from the narrow divide between the Upper and Lower Cascade Lakes, and climbed very steeply to the summit. The trail now in use begins a short distance above the upper lake and makes the ascent by a somewhat longer but much easier route.



THE SKYLINE OF THE GREAT RANGE FROM CASCADE MOUNTAIN, WITH BIG SLIDE
IN THE MIDDLE DISTANCE

The road from which it starts is the one that leads south from Lake Placid, passes through North Elba, and continues to Keene. As it nears Pitchoff there is a fork leading to the left which is to be avoided. Proceeding to the right at this point, and passing not far from Round Lake, the route presently swings to the left, taking a north-east direction, and soon begins to descend a long hill toward the Cascade Lakes. Pitchoff Mountain, barren and rugged, is in full view on the left, while Cascade is on the right. Just before the road reaches the lake the trail for Cascade leaves it on the right.

The trail descends for a few yards, passes an old road now abandoned, crosses a stream just beyond it, then begins to climb steadily in a heavily forested region. Twenty minutes from the highway the path turns sharply to the right and makes its way up in the midst of large rocks.

Five minutes beyond these it climbs a mossy ledge where the trees have been cut out, permitting a vista of Round Pond and the mountains lying beyond Lake Placid. McKenzie Mountain is on the right. Near the center Saint Regis Mountain is in sight, across the Lower Saranac Lake. Scarface, much nearer, comes next, and is followed by Ampersand, which is on the skyline to the left. The altitude at this point is about five hundred

feet above the start of the trail, and the distance from the highway is half a mile.

Here the trail enters an area of small cherry and birch growth, the after-effects of the fire that swept this region years ago. In twelve or fifteen minutes the path crosses a considerable brook which comes from the right. Beyond this it ascends moderately for a short distance, and then quite steeply for fifteen minutes. A steady, though a less steep climb follows, all of it in the region that was burned over. Half an hour after crossing the brook the trail reaches a place from which there are wide views over the region northwest and southwest.

Presently the bare summit is in sight ahead, somewhat on the left. By this time there is a panorama including a circuit all the way from Marcy around to Whiteface, which rises over the barren rocks of Pitchoff Mountain across the pass.

In fifteen minutes more the trail enters a region untouched by fire, now slabbing a knoll on the right. Passing out of this into a burned area once more, the path turns to the right up the slope and in a few minutes comes out on the top of the ridge that leads to the summit of the mountain. From this point to the crest there is considerable down-timber left by the forest fire, the trail winding its way about in the midst of dead tree-trunks.

As the summit is reached the panorama be-

comes complete to every point of the compass. Almost due north Mount Whiteface, ten and a half miles away, raises its cone over the bare ridge of Pitchoff and the long bulk of the Sentinel Range. The Jay Mountains lie to the northeast, eleven miles away, while on their right is Hurricane, somewhat nearer, the fire-tower on its top plainly visible. Between Jay and Hurricane, Mount Mansfield of the Green Mountains is in view, while over Hurricane Camel's Hump, or Couching Lion, is in sight.

Tripod and Spread Eagle, on the right of Hurricane, lead up to the bulk of the Giant with its slide-scored face. The distance to the Giant is eight miles. Close at hand is the summit of Porter, less than a mile distant from Cascade.

The big mountains to the southeast and south now begin. Dix is the first, its summit just to the right of a line toward Porter. It is ten and a half miles distant. McComb, much lower, follows it and is closely followed by Nippletop, which rises in line with the notch between the two peaks of the Wolf Jaws, five and a half miles distant.

To the right of the Wolf Jaws the Great Range continues. A part of Armstrong leads up to the broad bulk of the Gothics. Next is Saddleback with its two low summits and a shallow sag between them. Again there is a dip followed by two

steep slopes in succession, leading up to the summit of Basin Mountain. The distance from Cascade to the top of Basin is seven miles. Four miles nearer is Big Slide, its crest slightly to the right of the highest point of Basin. On its right, in turn, is Haystack and this is followed by a long, uninterrupted slope leading to the high cone of Mount Marcy.

Again there is a long descending slope and a rise to the somewhat isolated peak of Mount Colden. On the right the slopes of Colden descend gradually, then very sharply, into the deep notch of Avalanche Pass. Through the Pass a part of Calamity Mountain is visible. On the right of the Pass there are first the low crown of Avalanche Mountain and then the big bulk of MacIntyre, with its high peak.

On the right of MacIntyre and much farther away is Santanoni, with the cliff of Wallface lower and directly in line with it. MacNaughton and Street Mountains follow, the latter directly in line with Heart Lake. Seward is on the skyline back of Street Mountain, while the Sawteeth Mountains are somewhat to the right. Ampersand, seventeen miles away, is next and is followed by the Saranac Lakes.

Scarface, which stands out near by, prominent and alone, is just behind a tiny round lake. To the right of Scarface is a part of Lake Placid, with

McKenzie and Moose Mountains behind it. To the right again is another part of the lake, at the foot of the slopes of Whiteface.

The trip from the highway to the summit of Cascade can be made comfortably in two and a half hours and the return trip in an hour and a half.

CHAPTER XV

PITCHOFF MOUNTAIN

A short journey, easily made in two and a half or three hours for the round trip. The climb a steady one, with a scramble over some ledges near the top, but not seriously difficult. The view interesting, including a look deep down into the cleft of the Cascade Lakes.

PITCHOFF MOUNTAIN forms one of the two rough walls between which lie the Cascade Lakes, a few miles southeast of Lake Placid and northwest of Keene Valley. The other wall is contributed by the rocky slopes of Cascade Mountain. Of the two mountains Cascade is the higher, but Pitchoff is the more accessible, being reached by a trail that is relatively short, both as to distance and as to the time required for its ascent. Part way up, the path gives a striking view into the gorge in which lie the lakes, with the steep barrier of Cascade directly across and not far away. From a rocky knob that constitutes the south summit there is a good view that takes in the Great Range, distant mountains in the west, the Lake Placid Valley, the mountains on the northeast, and a part of the Green Mountains of Vermont.

Pitchoff was burned over in a big forest fire many

years ago. This left much barren rock in its train, as well as much down-timber on a part of the mountain. As far as the southerly summit, which is the objective described here, the trail does not encounter the work of the fire unpleasantly. Beyond this summit and continuing along the rugged crest of the mountain, there is plenty of evidence of the damage wrought.

The path starts at the easterly end of the clubhouse, situated near the lower end of Upper Cascade Lake. It begins to climb rapidly, at once crosses the new state road, and continues a brisk ascent in woods and among ledges. A quarter of a mile from the clubhouse, there is a fork. The path to the right leads beneath cliffs, a short walk of two or three minutes, to a spring. The path to the left continues the ascent of the mountain; but the two are joined by a crossover a short distance above, and so it is possible to take the right fork to the spring and then to come back to the main trail without losing ground. The altitude at the fork is about four hundred and fifty feet above the clubhouse. The time required to this spot is twenty to twenty-five minutes.

Again climbing steeply, the trail reaches open ledges in about fifteen minutes, and proceeds to climb over them. They are not dangerous to ascend, though they require some scrambling. In

ten minutes the path emerges upon a bare, rocky knoll, and now follows a line of cairns to the south-erly summit.

The time required from the clubhouse to the south summit is about an hour. The altitude is approximately nine hundred feet above the clubhouse.

From this point there is a trail that continues along the ridge, ascending and descending. It may readily be followed for a time but gets into more difficult going toward the north end of the ridge. Most trampers stop at the first rocky knob, described above, which really commands about as complete a view as the higher part of the ridge farther along.

The region of Lake Placid is seven miles away in the northwest and is plainly in view. In the north the Sentinel Range begins near at hand. In line with it is Mount Whiteface, nine miles away and almost due north by compass. In the east, beyond the East Branch of the Ausable, Hurricane Mountain with its fire-tower stands out. From northeast all the way to southeast the distant horizon is occupied by the undulating lines of the Green Mountains. Parts of Lake Champlain are visible toward the east.

In the southeast the Giant rises just over the left slopes of Cascade Mountain. The latter bulks

high, across the deep cleft in which lie the Cascade Lakes. Over its right slopes the Great Range begins with the Gothics, eight miles away. Big Slide Mountain, four miles distant, interrupts the panorama of the Great Range and cuts off the view of Saddleback Mountain, but on its right the panorama is resumed with Basin, Haystack, and Marcy, in the order named. The distance to the summit of Marcy is nine miles in an air line.

Mount Colden follows Marcy. Just on its right one looks through the deep cleft in which lies Avalanche Lake. Caribou rises on the right of this cleft and is followed by MacIntyre. Santanoni, seventeen miles away, is in view to the right of MacIntyre, with the Sawteeth Range still farther to the right. This is followed by Ampersand, which is a little north of west by compass and is sixteen miles distant. Farther to the right the view takes in Middle Saranac Lake, between Ampersand and Scarface.

The return trip from the part of Pitchoff here described to the clubhouse takes about forty-five minutes. The round trip is comfortably made as a three-hour journey, with ample time for a stay on top to enjoy the view.

CHAPTER XVI

HURRICANE MOUNTAIN

A somewhat isolated peak with an open, rocky crest which offers a wide view. Easily ascended in a round trip of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles occupying $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 hours, and affording several good viewpoints on the way up. A good mountain for a half-day trip.

FOURTEEN miles northeast of Mount Marcy and an equal distance southeast of Lake Placid stands Hurricane Mountain. Years ago it was chosen as one of the observation points from which the men who were mapping the Adirondack region recorded the angles to many other summits and thereby placed them in their proper relations. It is in fact one of the strategic Adirondack peaks, from which an unusually extensive view may be enjoyed.

The mountain is not difficult to climb, nor does it involve a very long tramp to reach its summit. A half-day will suffice for the round trip journey. Nevertheless, it is a really mountainous height, rising to a bare rock cone and offering sheer cliffs and ledges.

The motor highway from Elizabethtown to Lake Placid climbs a long valley to a divide, with Pitch-

off and Hurricane on the north and Knob Lock and Tripod on the south, then by an equally long descent reaches the East Branch of the Ausable, between the villages of Keene and Keene Valley.

From this highway, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Elizabethtown, a less traveled road branches to the north. A mile and a half farther west there is another branch, also leading to the north. These two branches unite when a mile from the main highway, and the road that leads from the junction winds steadily and sharply uphill for 2 miles, attaining finally an elevation more than a thousand feet higher than that of the motor thoroughfare. The road ends adjacent to a summer home. While steep it is in good condition and is easily passable.

From the end of the road an excellent trail leads in a general westerly direction to the summit of Hurricane. It is the route used by the fire observer who is stationed on the summit and whose cabin is situated part-way between the end of the road and the top of the mountain. The path is maintained by the State Conservation Department, and possesses the advantage of starting from a point already more than two thousand feet above sea level. It is marked with red discs.

The climber who comes by automobile from the direction of Lake Placid will take the Elizabethtown road at Keene and when across the divide, on

the way down the long hill toward Elizabethtown, will branch to the left at the first public road beyond the height of land, turning left again about a mile beyond.

The trail for the summit of Hurricane starts on the left of the mountain road, just before it comes to an end in front of a house. There is a grassy opening at this point, in the midst of scattered apple trees. The telephone line that runs to the top of the mountain will be seen close to the trail.

The path soon enters evergreen woods, and later passes through a mixture of birch and other hardwoods. It is a wide and open way, easily followed. In about twenty minutes from the start the path descends a little and crosses a stream. The altitude here is four hundred feet above that at the public road. Again climbing moderately for ten minutes, the trail arrives at the fire observer's cabin, passes closely in front of it, and crosses a second stream. On the farther side it enters spruce woods and climbs more rapidly.

Twenty minutes beyond the cabin the trail comes out on open ledges from which there is a view back toward the Green Mountains. The altitude is one thousand feet above that at the start of the trail. Sharp rises now alternate with short, level stretches, and these are followed by further ledges, with widening views toward Lake

Champlain and the mountains beyond. Half an hour after passing the observer's cabin the path surmounts a ledge from which there is a panorama toward the south and west. Mount Marcy is now in sight, together with other peaks in that direction. The summit rocks of Hurricane are in view straight ahead.

From this point to the summit is a climb of two hundred feet, the path following open rocks for the most of the distance, with splendid views toward west, south, and east. The trail ends at the fire observer's tower on the highest rocks of the mountain. The altitude here is eighteen hundred feet above that at the beginning of the trail, and the distance from the road to the summit of the mountain is two and a quarter miles. The time required from the road to the summit is an hour and a half to two hours.

Two other trails, somewhat less used, reach the summit of the mountain from other directions. One of these comes from the main road that leads from Elizabethtown to Keene and Lake Placid. It starts opposite a public camp site, situated at the highest point between Elizabethtown and Keene. The beginning of the trail is marked with a sign and the distance from road to summit is about three miles. The total climb is four hundred feet more than that required by the fire observer's trail

described above. A third path climbs the mountain from Hurricane Lodge on the northwest. This is reached by way of a road leading east from Keene village, or by a road circling the west side of Hurricane Mountain. The length of this trail is about four miles.

As with other Adirondack summits on which a fire observer is stationed, the tower on Hurricane is open to the public during the hours when the observer is on duty. A flag flies from the tower while the observer is there. However, the summit of the mountain is open rock and there is an unobstructed view without use of the tower.

The high peaks of the Adirondacks lie south and west from Hurricane. Lesser heights on the south lead toward them, beginning with Knob Lock, close at hand across the valley south of the mountain. This is followed by the broad ridge of Green Mountain, and behind the latter in turn is the high summit of the Giant, five miles away, with the long and irregular crest of Rocky Peak Ridge on its left. To the left of Rocky Peak Ridge the skyline drops off rapidly.

The right slope of the Giant descends sharply, making one side of a broad notch. The other side includes first a little of McComb Mountain, and then the high slopes of Dix. Again there is a deep notch in the skyline, where Hunter's Pass

separates Dix from Nippletop. Almost in line with the bottom of this cleft is the low, conical summit of Noonmark. The right side of the cleft is made up of the slopes of Dial Mountain and the sharp ascent to the summit of Nippletop.

A shallow notch follows, with Colvin rising on its margin. Immediately there is a deep divide with sharp sides — the precipitous cleft in which lies the Lower Ausable Lake. On the right of this the Sawteeth come into view, the jagged skyline finally rising to the summit of the Gothics. In line with the Gothics are the Wolf Jaws. To their right stand Saddleback and Basin, close together, and again to the right is the high and prominent cone of Mount Marcy. The distance to the summit of Marcy is fourteen miles.

The slopes that descend on the right from Marcy lead soon to a somewhat level ridge. Back of this the crest of Mount Colden is visible. A little farther to the right Mount MacIntyre stands out plainly, fifteen miles away, with Big Slide nearer and directly in line. The latter is readily distinguished by the high cliff on its left margin.

To the right of MacIntyre are Porter and Cascade, separated by a shallow notch. On the right of Cascade the slopes descend sharply to the cleft in which the Cascade Lakes are situated. On the right of this notch is the bare, rocky ridge of Pitch-

off Mountain. Ampersand, twenty-five miles away, is just visible to the left of Pitchoff. In line with the right end of Pitchoff, and somewhat nearer, is the sharp cone of Owl's Head, just beyond the valley of the Ausable East Branch.

The Sentinel Range now occupies the skyline, with McKenzie Mountain, which is beyond Lake Placid, just visible about midway of the range. Mount Whiteface follows on the right, rising prominently thirteen miles away in the northwest. The Wilmington Mountains, which are much lower, lie on its right and are followed by Lyon, a low, broad mass on the north. East of north is the Jay Range, six miles away, while on its right, nine miles farther away, Poke-o-Moonshine is in view.

Part of Lake Champlain appears at this point and sections of the lake are visible in the northeast and east. Behind them, and extending all the way around to the direction of Rocky Peak Ridge, the long line of the Green Mountains occupies the skyline. Mansfield is north of east. Camel's Hump, or Couching Lion, a prominent peak, is almost east. Farther to the right is the high ridge of Lincoln Mountain and this is followed by many others.

The return from Hurricane to the public road, following the fire observer's trail, will occupy about an hour. The round trip from the road to the sura-

mit and return can be done by a fast tramper in an hour and three quarters to two hours, though the usual allowance is three or three and a half hours.

CHAPTER XVII

POKE-O-MOONSHINE

A round trip journey of three miles, easily accomplished in three hours or less, starting from a public road. The trail itself interesting and the mountain well worth visiting. The view includes a long stretch of Lake Champlain, with the Green Mountains beyond it, many of the high peaks of the Adirondacks, and much rugged country in between.

THE reward offered to the climber by Poke-o-Moonshine lies partly in the great sweep of Lake Champlain that you get from its summit, a view extending through almost half a circle, with the line of the Green Mountains behind it; partly in the vistas of high Adirondack peaks in the southwest and west; and partly in the interest of the rugged mountain itself, with its broken, ledgy summit and its fern-bordered trail.

Poke-o-Moonshine is situated east of the limits of the Adirondack State Park. It is seven miles south of Keeseville, 13 miles north of Elizabethtown, and eight miles west of Lake Champlain. It lies well to the northeast of the high summits near Marcy and its view of them is that which one obtains from a distant lookout. The same is true of its panorama of the Sentinel Range, Mount Whiteface and the Wilmington mountains. Neverthe-

less, there is a rugged and wild country round about it, and its sweep over Lake Champlain is one of splendid breadth.

The trail to the summit leads up from the southeasterly side of the mountain and starts from the road that goes directly south from Keeseville to Elizabethtown. Six miles from Keeseville this road approaches a high and striking cliff which rises close at hand on the right. Beyond the cliff there is a tumbled, forested slope and presently a grassy opening on the left opposite a small area of level woods on the right. The remains of buildings stand on both sides of the road at this place.

The trail begins to the rear of the ruins on the right or west side of the road and is marked by a sign indicating the route to the fire observer's lookout on the summit. There is a public camp site here, with a rough fireplace. South, along the highway a hundred yards, there is a spring, but it is not dependable in dry weather. The route to the summit is marked by red discs.

Passing to the rear of the ruined buildings the trail immediately begins to climb in the midst of woods. It is much used and the way is unmistakable. Soon an unusual display of ferns will be found beside the path, and these continue to border it here and there most of the way to the summit.

Fifteen minutes from the public road the trail

passes big ledges and ten minutes beyond these it comes out upon the top of a ledge from which there is an outlook over the valley in which the public road lies. The altitude here is five hundred feet above the road.

Continuing by moderate grades the path proceeds toward a dip in the summit of the mountain. Soon the telephone line to the fire observer's cabin comes in on the left and follows the trail. In twenty-five minutes the path arrives at the observer's cabin, situated in a little glen, with a shoulder of the mountain rising sharply on the right as one approaches it. The altitude here is 1050 feet above that of the road and the distance to this point is about a mile.

To the left as one approaches the cabin a branch trail leads a short distance to a ledge, much used by picnic parties. To the right in front of the cabin another trail leads up a few yards and then westerly to another ledge, from which there is an excellent view. Just above the cabin on this trail, and to the right, there is a good spring.

From the spring the trail to the top of the mountain climbs steeply, passing through a cleft in a ledge as it ascends. Just beyond the cleft the way forks. The trail to the right is the direct route to the summit, but the one to the left may be followed if one will bear to the right soon after leaving

the fork. Fifteen minutes from the cabin the crest of the mountain is reached, the trail coming out at the steel tower used by the fire observer. The altitude here is twelve hundred and fifty feet above that at the public road, and the distance from the highway to this point is a mile and a half. The descent of the mountain can readily be accomplished in three quarters of an hour.

Poke-o-Moonshine was one of the mountains occupied as an observation point in the mapping of the Adirondacks carried out in the seventies. It was Station No. 26. A copper bolt bearing that number was sunk in the summit rocks, and a high, wooden, signal tower was erected at this point. At that time the surveyors were impressed by the extent of the mountain's summit and its broken character — an impression that the present-day climber will share. Much of the mountain's crown had been swept by fire before the map-makers visited it. The ledges that had been laid bare in that fashion have not accumulated enough soil since then to permit continuous forest growth.

A good deal of the view from Poke-o-Moonshine may be enjoyed from the various ledges of its crown. The high steel tower is open to the tramp, however, whenever the observer is on duty, and from this a complete panorama is obtainable.

The view of Lake Champlain begins toward the

north and extends through the east almost to the south, except for a short stretch in the neighborhood of Split Rock Mountain where the lake is narrow and the heights on the nearer side shut off the view of the waters.

Rattlesnake Mountain, close to Willsboro Bay, stands out in the east four miles away in an air line. On its left a part of the bay is in view, backed by Willsboro Point, and that in turn by the broad waters of the lake. Four Brothers Islands are beyond the base of Willsboro Point and just to the left of the crest of Rattlesnake Mountain. A part of Warm Pond is visible at the foot of Rattlesnake.

To the right Long Pond is in view, with two hills rising near it, the right one known as Sugar Loaf Mountain. Split Rock Mountain, on the shore of Lake Champlain, is in line with Sugar Loaf, but eleven miles farther away.

In line with the upper or left-hand end of Lake Champlain is Augur Lake, four miles distant, while under the slopes of Poke-o-Moonshine one can see a part of Butternut Pond, two miles away. Over these and extending to the right are the islands in the upper part of Lake Champlain. Behind them, in turn, begins the skyline of the Green Mountains, which rise in prominent summits, including Mansfield, Camel's Hump, or Couching Lion, and a long row of mountains south of these.

In the southwest there is rough wooded country near at hand. Deerfield Mountain, eighty-two feet lower than Poke-o-Moonshine, is close by, its summit a mile and a half distant. The Jay mountains lie beyond it. Saddleback, which is a part of the Jay range, is eleven miles away. To its left is Hurricane, with a fire-tower on its summit. Just to the right of Hurricane the crest of the Gothics is visible, twenty-five miles distant. On the left of Hurricane other peaks in the region of the high Adirondack summits rise on horizon. The Giant stands out, with Rocky Peak Ridge on its left, and a glimpse of Nippletop on its right.

To the right of the line of Deerfield Mountain the Sentinel Range occupies the view, twenty miles distant. On its right is a V-shaped notch followed by the slopes leading steadily to the summit of Mount Whiteface, which is almost due west, nineteen and a half miles away.

In line with Whiteface, but near at hand across the valley of the North Branch, is the broad bulk of Black Mountain, with Bald Mountain on its right. Over Bald Mountain and twelve miles farther away are the Wilmington Mountains, which lie northeast of Whiteface.

Slightly to the right and very near is the prominent spur known as Maguire Mountain. Just over it the tip of Catamount is visible, fourteen miles

distant. To its right, low on the horizon, is Loon Lake Mountain, on which is a fire-observation station. Still farther to the right and almost north is Baldface, which is a part of the mountain mass connected with Poke-o-Moonshine. Over it is Lyon Mountain with a fire-tower on its broad summit. To its right the heights drop off sharply into the valley of the Lower Ausable River, with Augur Lake and Butternut Pond in the foreground.

Two explanations are given for the name 'Poke-o-Moonshine.' One of these ascribes it to the general appearance of the mountain, with its suggestion of mysterious glens and eerie fastnesses. The other, offered by Beauchamp, suggests that it is derived from the Algonquin words 'Pohqui,' meaning 'it is broken,' and 'Moosie,' meaning 'smooth,' the combination 'Pohqui-Moosie,' referring to the character of the summit and to the sheer cliffs that one sees as one approaches it on the northeast.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE GIANT

A mountain that is appropriately named. Its broad bulk and high, bold crown make it a landmark for many miles. The view extensive in all directions. A good trail to the open, rocky summit. Round trip from a public road 8 miles, time 5 to 6 hours. Total climb about 3350 feet.

FOUR miles southeast of Keene Valley and just east of Saint Hubert's rises the Giant, its summit 4622 feet above sea level. Its precipitous westerly face, marked with slides and bare ledges, is conspicuous and unmistakable. Its great bulk and high crown make it a prominent summit, looming high and impressive. With the closely-connected mass of Rocky Peak Ridge, sometimes called 'The Giant's Wife,' it rises high on the skyline as one looks in its direction from almost any point of the compass. Its heavy westerly spurs descend boldly and broadly to the deep valley of the Ausable East Branch.

From its rocky crown there is a long panorama of the Lake Champlain and Lake George region, a splendid view into Hunter's Pass, with Dix and Nippletop on left and right, a sweep over the receding summits of the Great Range toward Marcy,

and a panorama of the mountains leading northwardly to Whiteface. An excellent trail ascends the mountain from the East Branch Valley, near Saint Hubert's, climbing a southwesterly spur to the summit. The path makes possible an interesting and satisfactory round trip of five or six hours from a public road.

The Giant is a mountain that is worth contemplating from the valley before climbing to its summit. Of the viewpoints reached by public road, that which is afforded by the open space in front of the Ausable Clubhouse, at Saint Hubert's, is one of the best. From a grassy knoll a few rods southeast of the club's main building the mountain is seen to rise like a great, rocky dome, its summit three miles distant. One looks up at the steep western face, precipitous and slide-scored, with dark wooded spurs buttressing the summit on right and left. This viewpoint is only three quarters of a mile distant from the start of the trail to the Giant, and is easily reached by public road.

The path that leads to the summit of the Giant was cleared about 1874. The beginning of the trail is near a level, grassy space, used as a ball-ground, situated at a fork where one of the two roads to the clubhouse branches from the main road connecting Keene Valley and Chapel Pond. If one comes from the direction of Keene Valley one will avoid a right



THE GIANT AND ROCKY PEAK RIDGE, FROM THE TRAIL ON MOUNT DIX

fork when two and a half miles south of the village and when half a mile farther, after surmounting a considerable hill, will arrive at the opening mentioned above. The trail is on the left as one nears the opening, just before crossing a small iron bridge. If one comes from the direction of Chapel Pond one will keep to the right on reaching the opening and will find the path close by on the right.

The trail starts in an easterly direction and follows Roaring Branch Brook, which leads down from the Giant and flows into Beede Brook. For the first two or three hundred yards one may follow the north bank of the brook itself or may cross through a pasture which borders the brook on its northerly side.

In either case, a path will be found starting from the farther, right-hand corner of the pasture as one approaches the mountain from the road. Immediately the trail enters an old wood-road.

In a few yards there is a triple fork. Here a path to the right, marked by a sign, leads to Artist Brook. The middle trail follows closely the course of Roaring Brook. The path to the left is the route to the Giant.

A steady climb now begins as the wood-road ascends the slopes, with the valley of Roaring Brook below on the right. Ten minutes from the

start there is a branch path leading to the right, marked by a sign, which gives access to an outlook adjacent to Roaring Brook Falls. Eight minutes farther the trail to the Giant turns sharply to the left, while the path straight ahead, again marked with a sign, leads to another part of Roaring Brook Falls. The altitude here is four hundred feet above that at the public road and the distance to this point is somewhat more than half a mile.

Turning to the left here the trail climbs moderately for a few minutes but soon enters a level stretch in the midst of a splendid evergreen forest. After ten minutes there is a fork. Here a trail to the right leads to the Giant's Wash Bowl and The Nubble, which are situated on a steep spur of the Giant. This route may be followed past the Wash Bowl and on out to the highway at the upper end of Chapel Pond. Thus the branch is an alternate means of approach to the Giant. The altitude here is six hundred feet above that at the start of the trail.

Continuing toward the summit of the mountain the trail soon crosses a large brook coming from the left and continues up through beautiful woods with the stream near by on the left. Twenty-five minutes later the path gradually draws away from the brook and begins to climb the slopes to the right, ascending more briskly.

In another three quarters of an hour the trail comes out on an open ledge from which there is a good view to the southwest and west. The symmetrical cone of Noonmark is directly across the valley, four miles away. Just to its right is Colvin and to its left Nippletop. This is followed by Hunter's Pass, with the slopes of Nippletop on the one side and those of Dix on the other. To the left of Dix is McComb. To the right is the valley in which the Ausable Lakes lie, with the Sawteeth on the right margin and Marcy to the rear. Still farther to the right are the Gothics. The altitude at this point is nineteen hundred feet above the start of the trail, and the distance from the public road is about two miles.

The trail now attacks a steep spur of the mountain, zig-zagging up in the midst of a thick growth of evergreens. In another three quarters of an hour there is a vista to the west through gnarled trees. Ten minutes beyond the route passes a big rock that stands out almost in the trail and serves as a landmark. In another five minutes the path emerges in the open, entering an area that was burned years ago. The crest of the mountain is now plainly in sight ahead, and there are broad views over distant peaks.

After crossing an open ridge the path enters scrubby timber, begins to climb once more and in a

few minutes passes near a spring. Water may be obtained here through a part of the season, but the spring fails in dry weather. However, if one will follow a rough branch trail that leads on past the spring fifteen yards, one will find good water in a crevice under a rock. The latter source of supply is dependable.

The climb from this point to the summit of the mountain is four hundred feet. The trail soon comes out upon open rocks and the latter part of the journey is over gentle slopes.

The total distance from the highway to the summit is four miles and the total climb amounts to about thirty-three hundred and fifty feet. The time required for ascending the mountain is three to four hours and the time for the descent is two to two and a half hours.

The view from the summit of the Giant takes in many of the high Adirondack peaks on the west and southwest. Mount Marcy is south of west, eleven miles distant in an air line. It is directly over the Gothics, which are square-topped and three and a half miles nearer. The Wolf Jaws, six miles away, are to the right of the Gothics. Over their wooded summits and continuing to the right is MacIntyre, fourteen miles distant. Between Marcy and MacIntyre is the summit of Mount Colden, barely visible over the slopes leading up to Marcy.

Farther to the right is Big Slide, and again on its right are Porter and Cascade, closely united. Pitchoff Mountain, its summit like a barren ridge, is to the right of Cascade, and is followed by the Sentinel Range. That, in turn, is followed by Mount Whiteface, which is west of north and seventeen miles away.

The bare summit of Hurricane Mountain is east of north, five miles distant. There is a fire-tower on its crest. Just to its right and six miles farther away are the Jay mountains. On their right one catches the first glimpse of Lake Champlain, which extends all the way along the northeast, east, and southeast sectors of the view. Beyond the lake are the Green Mountains. Mount Mansfield is east of north, and Camel's Hump, or Couching Lion, is almost east. Pico and Killington are southeast.

In the south the cone of Pharaoh Mountain, twenty-four miles distant, is visible. In this section of the view one can catch a glimpse of Lake George. Black Mountain, on the farther side of the lake, is to the left of Pharaoh and is thirty-nine miles away. A little west of south Schroon Lake is in view, twenty-four miles away.

More to the west and ten miles distant is McComb, while on its right rises the high summit of Dix. To the right of Dix is Nipplettop, with the deep cleft of Hunter's Pass between the two.

Boreas Mountain is in sight through the cleft of Hunter's Pass. Noonmark, which is much lower than Nippletop and is four miles nearer, is slightly to the right. Over Noonmark is a part of the Colvin Range. Its right slopes drop off into the valley in which lies the Lower Ausable Lake. On the right of this valley are the Sawteeth, and just to their right Haystack stands out, ten miles away. To the right of the Sawteeth and Haystack are the Gothics and Marcy.

CHAPTER XIX

NOONMARK

A rock cone that stands in the midst of a circle of high summits and therefore affords an unusually satisfactory panorama. Round trip from a public road 4 miles, time 3 to 4 hours. A steady climb but not difficult.

As you drive up the valley of the East Branch from Keene Valley towards Saint Hubert's, you see, straight ahead, a conical, prominent peak standing alone. Its slopes on either side descend without break and its summit is bare rock. Early settlers gave it the name 'Noonmark,' because from a familiar point of view the sun was directly over its summit at midday.

The mountain is 3552 feet high. That is a lesser altitude than the height of other surrounding mountains, such as the Giant, 4622; Rocky Peak Ridge, 4375; Dix, 4842; Nippletop, 4620; the Sawteeth, 4138; the Gothics, 4738; and Armstrong, 4455. But because of that very fact, and because Noonmark is isolated, these other higher mountains that encircle it are thereby permitted to stand out in their full strength. Noonmark gives one a better view of a typical group of the high Adirondacks than one would obtain by looking

down upon these high peaks from a summit of greater altitude.

The climb to its summit may readily be accomplished in two hours from a public road and the return journey in an hour to an hour and a half. Thus, the round trip may easily be done in a half-day, allowing for a stay on the summit. The trail is a steady ascent, not especially interesting in itself but satisfactory in that it loses no time in reaching the top of the mountain. It is easily found and is a well-marked, open path. The crest of the peak is bare rock from which one commands a complete panorama.

The mountain is four and a half miles south of Keene Valley in an air line. The trail to it is reached by taking a road leading south from the village in the direction of Chapel Pond, following the valley of the East Branch of the Ausable River. About two and a half miles from the village the highway forks. The road to the right climbs a hill, passes the Ausable Club, bears to the left, downhill, and presently joins the Chapel Pond road at a grassy opening used as a baseball field. The start of the Noonmark Trail is on the latter part of this loop.

Midway on this short link there is a private road branching to the right as one goes from the clubhouse to the Chapel Pond road. This private



NOONMARK MOUNTAIN FROM THE AUSABLE EAST
BRANCH

way leads uphill, passes an entrance to a summer home on the right and another on the left, and then a second on the left. On reaching the latter the route to Noonmark bears to the right, following a wood-road that looks like a lane.

Ascending moderately and avoiding a wood-road on the right, the trail arrives in ten minutes at a fork. Here the route to Mount Dix goes straight ahead, while that to Noonmark swings to the right and begins a steady ascent, in the midst of a hardwood forest. It trends in a southerly direction, and from this point to the top of the mountain is an open way without forks or cross trails.

Forty-five or fifty minutes from the place where the Dix trail branches, the route passes big rocks which are a sort of landmark. The altitude here is a thousand feet above that at the public road. Very soon the path climbs rather steeply in the midst of shattered and tumbled rocks and through a ledgy cleft. Fifteen minutes beyond these it surmounts an open shoulder of the mountain, from which there is a view back toward the Giant. The remaining climb to the summit is about four hundred and fifty feet, and is largely in the open. The total distance from the public road to the top of the mountain is about two miles.

As one surmounts the summit rocks a truly remarkable panorama is spread abroad. In the west

is the serrated skyline of the Great Range with the clean-cut cone of Mount Marcy rising plainly, seven and a half miles away, easily distinguished as the highest distant summit. It rises over the rounded saddle between the Sawteeth and the Gothics, both of these about four miles distant. To the left of Marcy Haystack is in view above the Sawteeth, with Little Haystack appearing like a small, inverted V between the cone of Marcy and the summit of Haystack. The Gothics are a broad mass, with a wide and deep, bare ledge on the face toward Noonmark.

To the left of the Sawteeth, and still farther away than Haystack, is Allen Mountain. The nearer slopes of the Sawteeth drop steeply into the hidden valley in which the Lower Ausable Lake lies.

To the right of the Gothics is a part of Armstrong, followed closely by the two summits of the Wolf Jaws which are separated by a bold notch. The high ridge of the Great Range then descends, and over its decreasing bulk the mountains beyond John's Brook Valley come into view, with Big Slide on the left, Porter following it, and over the right of Porter the distant cone of Mount Whiteface, eighteen miles away, rising above the Sentinel Range.

The view now drops into the valley of the Ausable East Branch, with the grounds and buildings

of the Ausable Club in the foreground and Keene Valley a few miles beyond.

Again the slopes rise in a long ridge leading up to the Giant. Over this ridge the peak of Hurricane is visible. The Giant itself rises boldly, its top broadly rounded and its face marked with broad ledges and slides. On its right is Rocky Peak Ridge, sometimes spoken of as 'The Giant's Wife,' while in line with the latter, but near at hand and lower, is the bare, burned summit of Round Top.

On the right the distant horizon picks up a part of the Green Mountains, including the summits from Lincoln down to Killington. These are followed by nearer mountains, beginning with an undulating ridge leading up to Spotted Mountain, four miles away toward the south. Another long slope, still nearer, rises to the summit of Dix, which is three and a half miles away and is distinguished by a low, sharp pyramid at the left of its crown.

On the right of Dix is the deep valley of Hunter's Pass, bordered on the other side by Nippletop. The right descending slope of Nippletop drops off to disclose the sharply cut summit of Colvin. To the right of Colvin, in turn, is the deep valley in which lies the lower Ausable Lake, on the farther side of which are the Sawteeth and other summits of the Great Range.

CHAPTER XX

MOUNT DIX

A high mountain with a bare rock, knife-edge summit which overlooks the Great Range, much of Lake Champlain, the Green Mountains, various remote summits in the south and west, and the forested wilderness surrounding Elk Lake. The trail long but interesting. Distance, highway to summit and return, 15 miles; time about 10 hours.

IN the southeastern part of the higher Adirondacks stands Mount Dix, seven miles southeast of Marcy and the same distance south of Keene Valley. The trail to its summit is a long one, totaling about fifteen miles for the round trip from the nearest point on a public road. It is a genuine day's journey from a highway to its crest and return. But regardless of its remoteness Dix is one of the best of the high peaks. The view that it affords is impressive, and the tramp to its summit is one of ample interest. The trail is maintained in good condition through the courtesy of a group of men at Saint Hubert's and Keene Valley and is readily followed.

Mount Dix bears in the highest rock of its summit a copper bolt placed there August 17, 1873, by the surveyors who were mapping the Adirondack region. The trip that they made to it that day

was one that they had occasion to remember. Having remained on the summit of the mountain until sundown, in order to complete observations, they planned to descend far enough to find water and a suitable camping-place. They managed to find the water, but not a desirable place to spend the night. In black darkness they finally found themselves on the crest of a cliff, with much empty space round about, and were compelled to remain there until morning. When it grew light they were able to discover a way down into Hunter's Pass.

Dix is an imposing mountain with an unmistakable contour. As you look at it from the west its peak, well up toward the summit, is scored with clean, sharp slides, visible from a long distance. That they have been there for at least sixty years is evidenced by the fact that Alfred B. Street, in his narrative of Adirondack climbs, published in 1868, speaks of three big slides that gashed the flank of the peak. Furthermore, the mountain has a low but characteristic rock pyramid, called the 'Beck-Horn,' rising at the south end of its crest, and this serves to distinguish it from any other mountain near by, as one looks at it from various points of the compass.

The height of the mountain is 4842 feet above sea level. While the rock pyramid mentioned above appears to rest as an extra summit upon the nar-

row and barren ridge, it actually is not the highest point of the mountain, for the ridge descends somewhat before the pyramid begins. A point about midway of the knife-edge is the real summit.

Mount Dix was given its name about the same time that Marcy and others in the high Adirondacks were christened, in 1837. It was named in honor of John A. Dix, of New York, at that time Secretary of State under Governor Marcy, and later to become Governor of New York, United States Senator, Secretary of the Treasury, and Minister to France.

The trail to Dix was first opened in 1873 and followed substantially the present route. For a period another means of access to the base of the mountain was in use, following a course between Noonmark and Bear Den Mountain, but this has been abandoned. The trail begins half a mile from the Ausable Club. Two roads connect the clubhouse with the main highway from Keene Valley to Underwood. One of them turns to the left immediately in front of the clubhouse and gives direct access to Keene Valley, while the other bears to the right and comes out upon the highway at a grassy opening where there are baseball grounds. The trail starts from the latter of the two roads, about halfway between the clubhouse and the ball-grounds.

It leaves the road on the right side as one comes from the clubhouse, and at first follows a private road. On this one passes a branch leading to a house on the right and two branches leading to houses on the left, the latter at the end of the road. Here the trail bears to the right, following a wood-road and ascending gradually. This part of the route coincides with that to Noonmark.

A short distance from the public road there is a wood-road leading to the right, which is to be avoided. Ten minutes farther the trail to Noonmark branches to the right, marked by a sign, while the route to Dix proceeds straight ahead. The altitude here is five hundred feet above the public road and the distance to this point is three quarters of a mile. In another ten minutes an old lumber camp is passed on the left, and seven or eight minutes beyond this the trail goes around a conspicuous, big boulder. Still another ten minutes of steady ascent brings one to the height of land between the slopes draining toward the Ausable on the north, and those draining toward the Bouquet River on the south. The altitude here is one thousand feet above that at the start of the trail. On the left at this point there is an abandoned, tumbledown lumber camp.

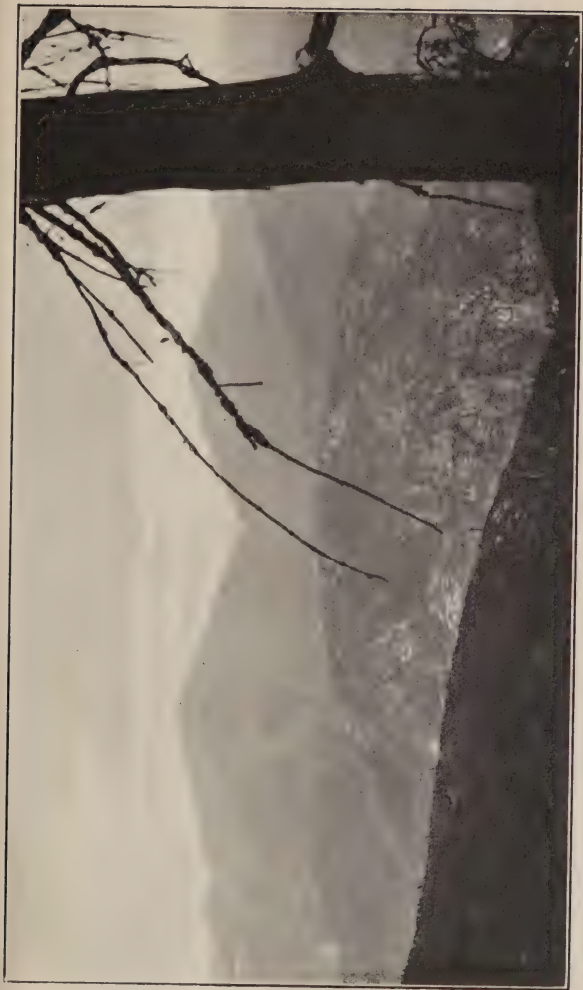
The trail now descends gradually toward the valley of the North Fork of the Bouquet, cutting

across to the right. Twenty minutes after passing the height of land the path arrives at the North Fork, turns to the right, and begins a moderate ascent, with the stream near at hand on the left.

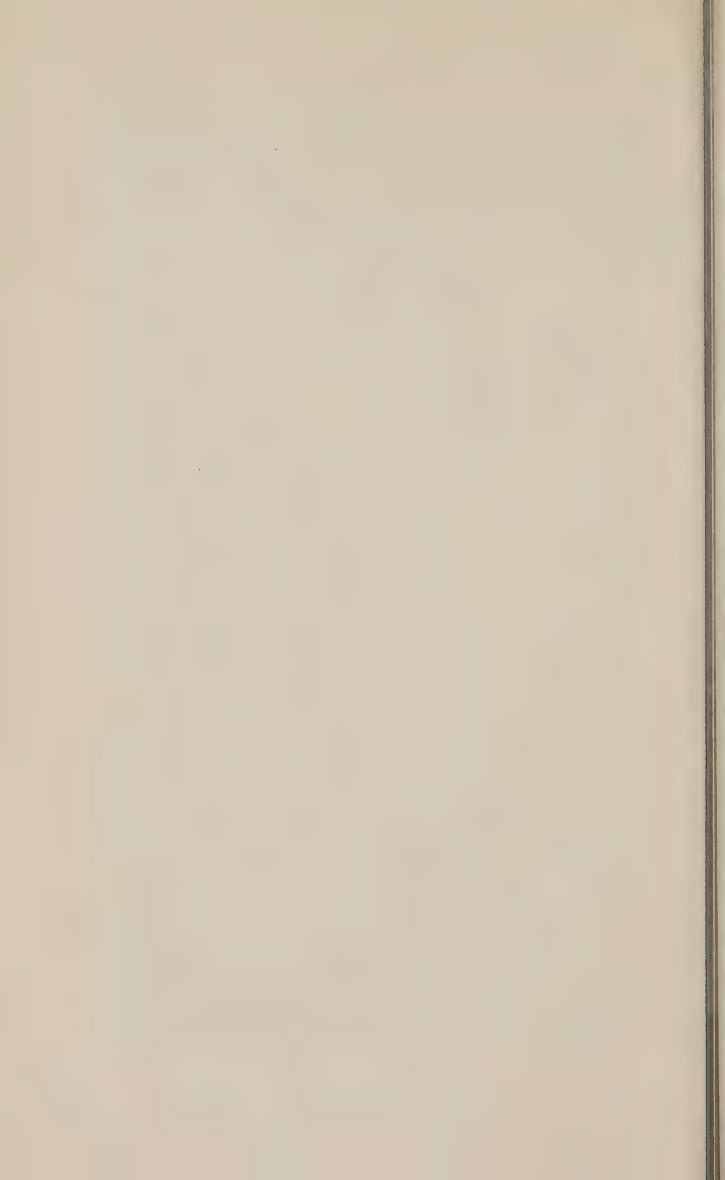
For the next twenty-five minutes part of the route is almost level and part of it ascends gradually. The trail then crosses the North Fork and for a short time proceeds upstream on the farther side. The distance from the beginning of the trail to this crossing is four and a half miles, and the altitude here is ten hundred and fifty feet above the start of the trail. Soon the path begins to swing away from the river, and when fifteen minutes beyond the crossing it turns to the left into the woods.

For the next half hour the trail negotiates an array of boulders and down-timber, through which it zigzags back and forth, up and down. Crossing a brook which comes from the left in two channels, separated by a few yards of rocks, the path soon arrives at a stream that descends steeply over a long, bare rock slide, high up on the left. Crossing this the trail at once enters splendid woods.

Here camping parties who make a two-day schedule of the trip to Dix and return often spend the night. Here, also, is a convenient and beautiful place for lunch. The distance to this point from the beginning of the trail is about six miles and



MOUNTS DIX AND NIPPLETOP, WITH HUNTER'S PASS BETWEEN, FROM THE SLOPES
OF THE GIANT



the altitude here is eighteen hundred feet above the start of the journey.

After crossing the brook the path climbs steadily for five minutes and then ascends very steeply in the midst of a forest of big spruces. It is now climbing a prominent buttress of the mountain and is making its way to the top of a narrow ridge that leads to the summit. After half an hour of this the trail enters an area that has been lumbered, where only bushes and low trees now grow, and soon comes out on the ridge. Following the crest and entering an area of small evergreens on the farther side, the trail makes its way steadily to the crown of the mountain, presently emerging on the bare rock summit.

The total distance from the public road to the summit is seven and a half miles, and the time required for the ascent is usually about five hours. The altitude at the summit is approximately thirty-five hundred feet above that at the start of the trail.

The view from the rock crest of Dix is one of marked diversity. It sweeps over other high summits near by — though none in the immediate neighborhood is quite as high as Dix itself — takes in a panorama of the Great Range, includes distant peaks that rise on the horizon many miles away, commands a long line of mountains in

another State, and overlooks a great forested basin in the vast wilderness on the southwest.

In the northwest, two miles away in an air line, rises Nippletop, across the cleft of Hunter's Pass. Beyond it the Colvin Range swings around to the left in a skyline of many lesser summits and elevated notches. Beyond that, in turn, rise the high peaks of the Adirondacks. Mount Marcy, seven miles distant, is just to the left of the summit of Nippletop. Haystack is directly in line with Marcy.

On the right of Marcy and four miles farther away is the crest of MacIntyre. On its right, five miles nearer, is Basin. This is followed by Saddleback, its two summits in line with each other, and by the Gothics, which stand out very boldly and are conspicuous because of the slides that score their upper slopes. To the right of the Gothics are the Wolf Jaws, with a clean-cut notch between their two summits. Through this notch one catches a glimpse of Big Slide Mountain, three miles farther away.

To the right of the Wolf Jaws Whiteface comes into view, twenty-one miles distant. Its compass direction is a little west of north. Close at hand and practically in line with Whiteface is Dial Mountain, eight hundred and nineteen feet lower than Dix and appearing as a part of the ridge leading up to Nippletop.

Farther to the right Hurricane is visible, eleven miles distant. It is closely followed by the Giant and Rocky Peak Ridge, which stand out prominently six and a half miles away in an air line. Between these two there is a glimpse of Lake Champlain, thirty-five miles away. To the right of Rocky Peak Ridge the lake again comes into view and one can see its shining waters all the way around to the southeast. Beyond the lake, if the air is clear enough, the long line of the Green Mountains is plainly in sight, from Mansfield on the north to Killington on the south. One who knows their separate heights can pick them out, one by one.

In the southeast, when conditions are favorable, one can look over a receding array of lesser summits leading away to the Lake George country and can distinguish Black Mountain, thirty-five miles distant, on the farther side of the lake. Slightly to the right of the line to Black Mountain Pharaoh Mountain is in view, nineteen miles away.

In the south the high crest of Dix drops away and connects with McComb. The westerly slopes of McComb lead down into the wilderness in which lies Elk Lake, with its bays and peninsulas and its many islands. To the right of Elk Lake the slopes rise to the long summit of Boreas Mountain. Between Elk Lake and McComb one can see Crane Mountain, thirty-seven miles away.

To the right of the summit of Boreas Vanderwhacker is visible, and just to its left is Snowy, near Indian Lake, thirty-nine miles distant. To the left of Elk Lake, and two miles farther away, is Clear Pond. Over the left end of the Colvin Range Blue Mountain is visible, thirty-four miles distant. A little to the right, twenty-three miles nearer, is North River Mountain. On its right are the summits that lead up to Marcy, beginning with Allen Mountain, almost due west, then Redfield, and close on its right the broad summit of Skylight, which lies close to Marcy. Between Allen and Redfield, part of Santanoni is in sight, eighteen miles away.

The return journey from the summit of Dix may be made in considerably less time than the ascent of the mountain, for most of the trail can be covered rapidly, and the rise to the height of land between the Bouquet River and the Ausable is gradual. Fast walkers will do the return in three hours or less, though the usual allowance is four or four and a half hours. The round trip, from the beginning of the trail at the public road to the top of the mountain and return, can be accomplished comfortably in ten hours, allowing for a stay on the summit.

CHAPTER XXI

MOUNT COLVIN

AND

INDIAN HEAD

One of the most beautiful circuits in the Adirondacks, taking in first the summit of cliffs high above the Lower Ausable Lakes and then the crest of a rugged mountain with a magnificent panorama. The trail unusual, leading through untouched woods, and returning past cascades and waterfalls. Round trip of Indian Head alone, returning by the cascades, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles; time 2 to 3 hours. Round trip of entire circuit, using carriage to start of trail and return, $9\frac{1}{4}$ miles; time 7 to 8 hours.

MOUNT COLVIN, or 'Sabele' as it was first called, is a distinguished mountain, both as to the quality of the view from its summit and as to the beauty of the trail that gives access to its rugged crest. Few Adirondack heights present a more compelling picture than that of the Great Range across the depths of the Lower Ausable Lake as one sees it from Colvin, and few offer a tramp through such magnificent woods in the approach to the peak.

Mount Colvin is in a preserve maintained by the Ausable Club, and therefore its paths are on private property. No camping is allowed. However, the tramper is made welcome in the use of the trails.

The situation of Colvin is such as to lend itself to unusual setting. On the northwest the flanks of the mountain fall directly to the Lower Ausable Lake. Just across this narrow and austere body of water other steep slopes begin that lead up to Armstrong, the Sawteeth, and the Gothics. On its southeast side Colvin's flanks descend abruptly to Elk Pass, with Nippletop high and exclusive on the farther side. No villages or public highways approach the territory occupied by Colvin.

A detached spur, known as Indian Head, lies between the main body of the mountain and the outlet of the Lower Ausable Lake. A precipitous gash separates the two. By means of a loop trail it is possible to make a combination trip that takes in first the high cliffs of Indian Head and then the ascent of Colvin, with an option of return by way of the waterfalls and cascades of Gill Brook. It is a splendid circuit, easily done in a single day.

The approach to this region is by way of the Ausable Club, situated four miles south of Keene Valley. Cars may be driven to the club grounds. From this point a private road leads uphill through the woods, three and a half miles to the outlet of the Lower Ausable Lake. The tramper may follow this road afoot, or may make arrangements at the clubhouse for a carriage to take him to the beginning of the trail and to meet him on his return.

Just beyond the two-mile sign a trail leaves the private road on the left, following the bank of Gill Brook upstream. This is the trail by which the tramper will end the day's circuit as described in this chapter.

About a mile beyond this point another trail leaves on the left, marked 'Mt. Seville.' This path leads directly across to the one described in the preceding paragraph, coming out on Gill Brook above a long series of cascades and waterfalls.

A short distance farther the private road brings one to the crest of the rise just above the outlet of the Lower Ausable Lake. Here a third trail leaves on the left, marked 'Indian Head.' This is the start of the circuit described in this chapter. The distance from the Ausable Club to this point is three and a quarter miles. About an hour and a quarter is required, ordinarily, for the trip afoot from the clubhouse.

The trail to Indian Head begins to climb briskly and continues to do so all of the way to the top of the ridge that leads out to the cliffs. On reaching the crest it turns to the right, in the midst of scrubby evergreens, and in a few yards emerges on the top of an open ledge forming the highest point of the cliffs. Another ledge, farther out and a little lower, is easily reached. The distance from the road to this viewpoint is about a mile, and the time required is thirty minutes to an hour.

From the summit of the cliffs one looks up the valley occupied by the Lower Ausable Lake, with Colvin on the left and the ragged slopes of the Gothics on the right. The lake sweeps past the foot of the cliffs, seven hundred feet below. Beyond the inlet one looks across an intervening stretch of woods to the Upper Ausable Lake, backed by mountains that lie beyond the wilderness bordering its farther margin.

To continue from Indian Head to Mount Colvin one must first get around the deep cleft that lies between. For a few yards the route returns along the trail that leads out to the top of the cliffs. Where this trail turns to the left and descends, the path for Colvin goes straight ahead along the ridge, rising a little and crossing two or three small openings. Just before reaching a lookout at the end of a precipitous ledge, the trail turns sharply to the right and descends steeply. Passing through beautiful woods and crossing a small brook coming from the right, it reaches a junction of trails just beyond. The distance from the top of the cliff to this junction is about a mile. The time required for the descent is thirty minutes.

The path to the left at the junction soon forks, the left branch leading directly to the road, while the right branch goes down the valley of Gill Brook, coming out on the road at the two-mile

sign. The path to the right at the junction leads to the top of Colvin, following a route laid out about 1886.

The distance from the junction to the road by the direct route is three quarters of a mile and the time required is fifteen to twenty minutes. The distance by way of the trail following Gill Brook is about two and a quarter miles, but the tramper reaches the road about a mile nearer to the clubhouse.

If the tramper is doing only the circuit of Indian Head, omitting Colvin, the round trip from the start of the trail near the lake to the top of the cliffs and back by the shorter route just described is two and three quarters miles. This circuit can easily be made in two hours, allowing for time on the cliffs. If one follows the path down Gill Brook the total distance is four and a quarter miles and the time allowance should be about three hours.

Turning to the right at the junction described above the route to Colvin follows at first the valley of Gill Brook. Gradually, however, it leaves the stream, climbing the slopes of a ridge, with the brook deep down to the left. All of the way to the top of the mountain the path leads through magnificent forests.

Half an hour from the junction the trail passes along the top of a precipitous bluff, from which

one can look down through the trees into Gill Brook Valley. Just beyond this the trail descends a little but soon climbs briskly again. In twenty minutes from the bluff it reaches a fork marked by a sign. Here the route straight ahead leads through Elk Pass to Elk Lake. The route to Mount Colvin turns sharply to the right. The distance from the junction to this point is a mile and a quarter, and the climb from the junction is fourteen hundred feet.

The path now climbs steeply in a wild and broken region. In twenty minutes it passes under rugged cliffs on the right and begins an alternate series of ascents and descents. After twenty minutes of this it crosses the bottom of a narrow defile, climbs the cliff on the farther side by ladders, and emerges on the top of the mountain. The total climb from the junction to this point is about nineteen hundred feet.

If one has come by way of Indian Head, the total climb from the road where the Indian Head trail starts is twenty-six hundred feet, and the total distance from the road by this route is about four and a half miles. If one has come by the direct route from the road, omitting Indian Head, the climb is twenty-two hundred feet, and the distance is three and a quarter miles. The altitude of Mount Colvin above sea level is 4074 feet. The

altitude above the Lower Ausable Lake is 2113 feet.

The view from the summit of Colvin is unobstructed except toward the region of Elk Lake. It is impressive and beautiful.

In the southeast Nippletop rises high, across the heavily wooded valley of Elk Pass. Its long descending slope on the left gives a glimpse of the Green Mountains. Rocky Peak Ridge, eight miles away, rises to cut off the distant panorama. Round Top, which is much lower, is in line with Rocky Peak Ridge. Noonmark is just to the left of Round Top and is in line with the right slopes of the Giant.

Farther to the left Hurricane Mountain, twelve miles distant, stands out plainly. Still farther to the left the Great Range begins with the Wolf Jaws, slightly east of north, followed by a part of Armstrong. Through a shallow sag Mount Whiteface can be seen, nineteen miles distant.

The Gothics now come into view, behind the Sawteeth, directly across the Lower Ausable Lake. On their left the Great Range continues with Saddleback, the high crest of Basin, and the summit cone of Marcy. Haystack is just to the left of Marcy and a mile and a half nearer. It is followed by Skylight. On the left of the latter, fifteen miles away, the long crest of Santanoni is in sight. Allen

Mountain lies over the right side of the Upper Ausable Lake. North River Mountain is directly over the lake.

The trail to the summit of Colvin continues along the crest of the mountain. By proceeding along this trail for a few rods and then turning to the right to another ledge, one can see more of the country to the southwest, including Boreas, six miles away, with Boreas Pond on its right.

The return trip from Colvin by way of Gill Brook follows the trail by which one ascended the mountain until it reaches the junction described in an earlier paragraph. Here one continues to a fork, a few minutes beyond, and there takes the right-hand path, along the bank of the brook, proceeding within view of cascades, waterfalls, and flumes that are in themselves well worth the trip. The distance from the top of the mountain to the road by this route is four and three quarters miles.

The round trip to Colvin by the route described, taking in the cliffs of Indian Head and returning by Gill Brook, is a total tramp of a little more than nine miles. The time required for this circuit, including allowances for stops, is ordinarily seven or eight hours. If one goes afoot up the road to the start of the trail and returns afoot to the clubhouse, the total circuit is fourteen and three quar-

ters miles, and the time ordinarily required is nine or ten hours.

Mount Colvin was first climbed August 20, 1873, by Verplanck Colvin, head of the Topographic Survey, with some of his associates and guides.

CHAPTER XXII

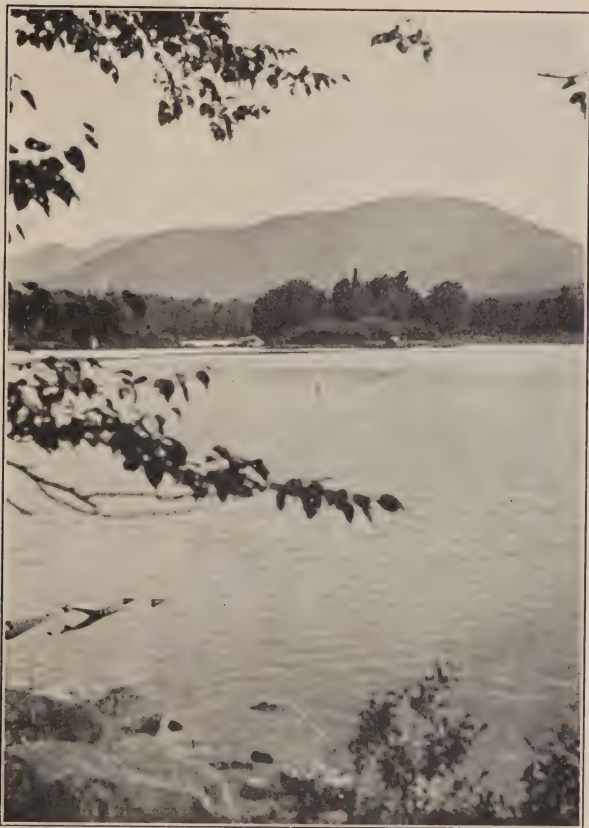
MOUNT ADAMS

A mountain that affords a striking near-by view of Marcy, Colden, MacIntyre, and their neighbors, and a vista of more distant summits to the south. The trail attractive. Round trip distance 5 miles. Time 4 to 5 hours.

MOUNT ADAMS is a relatively isolated summit, rising to a height of 3584 feet above sea level and situated just northeast of Lake Sanford. Its south-east slopes are bordered by the deep valley of the Opalescent River. On the west is the Hudson and on the north the valley of Calamity Brook, which flows into the Hudson.

High mountains surround Adams on three sides. From its crest, therefore, you are granted a near-by view of many splendid Adirondack peaks, beginning with Santanoni on the left and swinging around over MacNaughton, MacIntyre, Colden, Marcy, Redfield, Allen, and North River Mountain. On the south the receding valley of the Hudson leads away to other interesting heights, some of them many miles distant.

The trail that ascends Adams is attractive in itself. Crossing the outlet of a lake the route passes for a time through delightful woods, ascends



MOUNT ADAMS, ACROSS LAKE SANFORD

steadily by an old logging-road, climbs steeply in the midst of ledges, mossy rocks, and big cedars, and follows with a final half-hour ascent through a beautiful spruce forest, where the slopes are at such an angle as to make one reflect on the ability of trees to thrive under such circumstances. A steel tower on the summit affords a complete panorama.

The round trip to the summit and return is five miles and the climb is about eighteen hundred feet. The ascent can be made comfortably in two and a half or three hours and the descent in an hour and a half or two hours.

Mount Adams lies within the preserve of the Tahawus Club, and therefore both the mountain and the trail to its summit are on private property. No camping is permitted, either near the foot of the mountain or in any of the regions near by. Visitors are expected to give heed to the fact that the journey is over private land and is made possible only through the courtesy of the club.

To reach the trail one takes the road that branches from the motor thoroughfare connecting North Creek and Long Lake. About halfway between these two places there is a branch leading to the north to Tahawus post office. Here a road to Lake Sanford and the Tahawus Club branches to the left, at once crossing the Hudson River on an iron bridge.

Five miles from the bridge the road begins to skirt the shores of Lake Sanford and in another mile and a quarter passes a fork to the right where a trail begins that leads across to the Opalescent River and on to the summit of Mount Marcy. Avoiding the right fork, one continues along the shore of Lake Sanford to a point beyond the upper end of the lake. A gate marks the beginning of the immediate surroundings of the club buildings. Cars should not be driven beyond this point. Beyond the gate the road passes a stone tower on the right, once in use in connection with the iron works, and presently arrives at a small opening adjacent to a private garage, across from a cottage belonging to the club. The trail begins on the right here.

For the first few minutes the route follows a rough road which leads down to a stream — the small Hudson River. Crossing this on a foot-bridge the path follows a continuation of the same rough road through an opening and into woods. Ten minutes after leaving the foot-bridge the trail arrives at the lower end of Lake Jimmy, which it crosses on an ancient corduroy bridge, now almost submerged because of the activity of beavers who have persisted in damming the outlet of the lake.

Beyond the lake the path continues through woods, with little or no change in elevation, and in a few minutes passes a cabin on the left occupied

by the fire observer stationed on the top of the mountain. Five minutes beyond the cabin the trail crosses a brook which comes from the left and soon begins to climb steadily. In another twelve or fifteen minutes the path enters a logging-road, turns squarely to the right, and follows this road uphill.

Twenty minutes farther there is a sign indicating a branch trail to the right to a spring, thirty feet distant from the path. In dry weather it is difficult to get water at this place, though moisture trickles over the rocks. The altitude here is nine hundred feet above the beginning of the trail, and the distance to this point is a mile and three quarters. The remaining distance to the top of the mountain is three quarters of a mile, but the climb is as great as that which has already been accomplished.

Above the branch trail the path climbs steeply in the midst of mossy rocks, with big cedars all about. In twenty minutes the route attains a level spot on the shoulder of the mountain, entering a region that has been logged. In a few yards, however, it turns to the right and at once begins to climb again at a sharp angle through a magnificent spruce forest. While this part of the trail is steep it is also beautiful.

As the path nears the summit the grade becomes

less steep. Finally, the trail enters a small area in which the large trees have been cut off and in a few rods more it arrives at the steel tower on the top of the mountain. The tower is a high one, but it has a stairway and a glass-enclosed room on top. It is open to the public while the observer is on duty.

The first and outstanding feature of the view from the summit of Mount Adams is that toward Marcy which lies a little north of east, over Cliff Mountain. In this direction the slopes of Adams drop away into the valley of the Opalescent River, part of which is visible in its winding course. The distance to the summit of Cliff Mountain is two and a half miles, while that to Marcy is five and a half miles. On the left of Marcy, Mount Colden stands up like a spire, while on its left is the deep cleft in which lie Colden and Avalanche Lakes, hidden behind the ledgy and rugged bulk of Calamity Mountain, close at hand on the north-east. On the left of this cleft is the MacIntyre Range, its several summits rising one behind another. The top of Avalanche Mountain, which rises beside Avalanche Lake, is just visible over the broad summit of Calamity.

Over the left end of MacIntyre the flat top of Street Mountain is barely in sight, merging on its left with the summit of Wallface. A shallow notch

then follows, with MacNaughton rising on the left. Successive peaks of the Sawteeth Range, five miles farther away, lie to the left of MacNaughton, with the top of Ampersand on their left and still farther away. A part of Upper Preston Pond can be seen to the left of the line to Ampersand.

Again, slightly to the left, comes Seymour, with a sharp top, and Seward. This is followed by Henderson, which looks large because it is only three and a half miles distant. Behind Henderson and to the left rises Santanoni, very broad and massive.

More distant mountains now follow. The square-topped summit of Blue Mountain can be made out, twenty-four miles away. On its left is Goodenow, thirteen miles distant, its top surmounted by a high iron tower. Snowy is farther to the left, a part of its base hidden behind Panther Mountain. In the same direction Lake Sanford is visible in the foreground. Slightly to the left are glimpses of the Hudson River and over this rises the prominent cone of Vanderwhacker, fourteen miles away. Still farther to the left Crane Mountain may be picked up in clear weather, thirty-seven miles distant.

The view now takes in near-by summits once more, beginning with North River Mountain, which is followed on its left by the sharp peak of

Cheney Cobble. Through a broad notch between Cheney Cobble and Allen a part of Boreas is in view, nine miles away, a fire-tower on its summit. To the left of Allen rises the high bulk of Mount Redfield, with a part of Mount Skylight showing over its left shoulder. This is followed closely by the high cone of Mount Marcy.

CHAPTER XXIII

MOUNT SANTANONI

Not an easy mountain to climb, but one of the best, standing in a vast wilderness and looking out upon a varied array of lakes and peaks. A plain path leads to the base, but the route from there to the summit is rough, though it may readily be followed by anyone experienced in woodcraft. Round trip, road to summit and return, 13 miles, time 8 or 9 hours.

To any one who enjoys a mountain that stands in the middle of a great wilderness, looking out upon miles of forest dotted with remote lakes, and who senses especially the charm of a peak that is seldom visited as compared with such popular summits as Whiteface or Marcy, Santanoni holds out an attraction all its own.

The mountain presents a characteristic bulk, especially wide and substantial as one looks at it from east or west. Its highest point rises 4621 feet above sea level. There is a second summit, 4448 feet high, known as Panther Peak, which is connected to the main summit by a high sag in the skyline. Although the crown of the mountain bears only low scrub, not more than two or three feet high, its general appearance is that of a densely wooded mass.

It appears that there never was a time when the mountain was much visited, except by those who appreciate a wilderness peak. While there is a trail to the summit, it is not an easy trip and should not be undertaken by any one unfamiliar with woods travel. The approach to the base of the mountain is open going and is well marked, but the last two miles, representing the real climb, are accomplished by way of a blazed trail that is sometimes obscure and often crooked and uncleared. The route to the top is essentially the same as that followed by Colvin and his guides in 1872. It was opened as a trail about 1895.

To reach the trail you will take a road that branches from the highway connecting Long Lake and North Creek and leads to a fork known as Tahawus post-office. There you will continue on a road that crosses the Hudson at once, follows that stream, passes along the west bank of Lake Sanford, and eventually gives access to the Tahawus Club. After passing a gate this route leads through private land and visitors are expected to give due heed to that fact. Under no circumstances is camping permitted.

Eight miles from Tahawus post-office and just beyond the upper end of Lake Sanford the private road reaches a second gate. Here the route to Santanoni begins. There is a sign at this point

which indicates the Conservation Department trail to Cold River, Tupper Lake, and other points. The path begins on the left near the gate, soon crosses a wire fence and beyond it enters an old tote-road. It is marked with blue discs.

A few rods from the road the path crosses a small clearing, where there is an old lumber camp, and here bears to the left. Following the tote-road the path reaches a beaver swamp in twenty-five minutes. Here the trail has been compelled to abandon the tote-road for a short distance, in order to get around the head of the swamp. On the farther side it resumes the old road and presently, having crossed a ridge, goes downhill to a large stream, which is the lower end of Santanoni Brook. This point is two miles from the start of the trail and the gain in altitude thus far is only about one hundred feet.

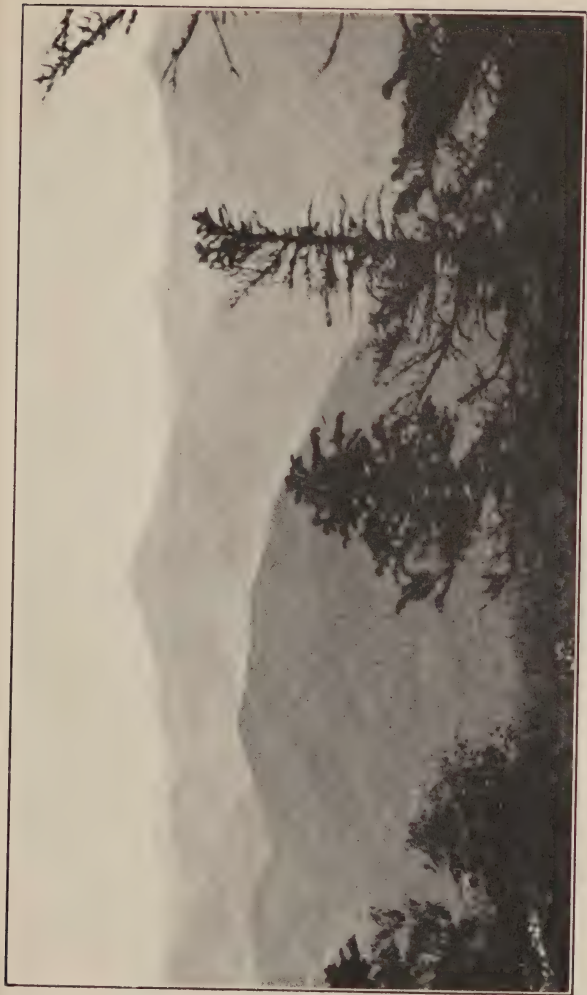
Crossing the stream the trail swings away from the brook as it ascends, but presently bears to the left and in fifteen minutes draws near to the stream once more and for the next mile and a half follows it closely. The path ascends steadily, though moderately, with the stream usually near by on the left. Soon after the trail reaches the stream it passes a tumbledown camp.

About an hour from the crossing of Santanoni Brook, the path reaches a fork. Straight ahead

on the tote-road lies the route to Cold River, Corey's, and Tupper Lake. To the left is the blazed trail to Santanoni Peak. The distance to this point is four miles and the altitude here is approximately one thousand feet above the start of the trail.

Since the trail to the fork is open going and involves only a modest ascent in four miles of journey, the trip to the fork can be done at a good rate of progress. Usually two or two and a half hours will suffice for this part of the journey. The climb from this spot to the summit is eighteen hundred feet in two miles of trail, and is very different in character from the approach to this point. This part of the route cannot be traveled rapidly, the average time required being two hours.

From the fork the route to Santanoni crosses the brook, proceeds upstream close to the farther bank for a short distance, and then makes its way through or around an area where the trees have been killed by the work of beavers. Beyond this the route is crooked and rough, climbing over and under boulders, forcing its way through occasional stretches of thick-growing evergreens, and otherwise reminding the visitor that Santanoni is not one of the mountains that sees great numbers of trampers every year. It is all interesting, however,



A VISTA TOWARD THE HIGH PEAKS FROM THE TRAIL ON SANTANONI

and it can readily be followed by one who is accustomed to blazed trails.

As the trail nears the summit there are occasional vistas through the diminishing scrub. Finally on the crown of the mountain the trampler is afforded a complete panorama, except a small section in the southwest, where a wooded and slightly higher knoll obstructs a small part of the view. There is a crooked trail that gives access to this knoll, but the view from the open crown first reached is sufficient to command full interest.

The high peaks of the Adirondacks lie north of east and are spread forth in splendid array. Mount Marcy is eleven miles distant, its cone standing out plainly. Mount Colden is on its left, easily recognized by the prominent slides on its left flank. Between Marcy and Colden one can see the Giant, twenty-one miles distant. In the direction of Mount Colden a part of the Flowed Lands is visible, while much nearer and to the right is a part of Henderson Lake. Bradley Pond is to the left and close under the slopes of Santanoni.

Henderson Mountain is near by in the northeast, its summit much lower than that of Santanoni. Over its right slope rises Mount MacIntyre, standing out prominently. On the left of MacIntyre one looks straight through the notch of Indian Pass, with the sheer cliff of Wallface Mountain defining

its left margin. In line with the pass, and ten miles farther away, is the distinctive cleft of Cascade Notch, with Pitchoff and Cascade on left and right. On the left of Wallface is MacNaughton. Farther to the left, twenty-three miles away, rises Mount Whiteface.

Returning now to the view toward Mount Marcy, one sees Calamity Mountain, five miles nearer and in line with it. Mount Adams is on its right, behind a part of Lake Henderson. The summit of Adams shows a rectangular cleared space in which rises a tall observation tower. Over Adams and four miles farther away is Redfield, and over that in turn is the summit of Skylight. Between Marcy and Skylight the crests of Haystack and Little Haystack are in view.

Nippletop is on the right of Redfield and sixteen miles distant, with Dix two miles farther away and just on its right. There is a prominent diagonal slide near the top of Dix. Farther to the right of Redfield is Allen, directly in line with Lake Jimmy, which is deep in the valley near the Tahawus Club. To the right of Lake Jimmy is another small body of water known as Lake Sally. McComb, eighteen miles distant, is on the right of Allen and is marked with slides.

Again, deep in the valley and a little more to the right, is Lake Sanford, with North River

Mountain behind it, and the small, round knob of Cheney Cobble at the left. Boreas is beyond North River Mountain, its tower visible in clear weather. Close under the slopes of Santanoni, in a southeast direction, is the lesser summit of Mount Andrew. Lake Andrew is to the right of Mount Andrew.

In the remote distance toward the east, beginning to the right of McComb and extending as far as the line of Lake Andrew in the southeast, one can see the Green Mountains, fifty miles away.

South from Santanoni and five miles distant, Newcomb Lake is in view, with Vanderwhacker beyond it. Gore Mountain, near North Creek, is almost in line with Vanderwhacker, while Crane Mountain may be distinguished, slightly to the left and thirty-eight miles distant.

In the north and west, beginning with Whiteface, there are other points of interest in sight. Lake Placid is in view to the left of Whiteface. On its left and just beyond it are Moose and McKenzie Mountains. In the near foreground is Panther Peak, with the Sawtooth Range six miles farther away and just to its right. Van Dorrien, ten miles distant, is to the left of Panther Peak, and just on its left is the bare, rock summit of Ampersand, eleven miles away. A part of Amper-

sand is cut off by Seymour, and this is followed by Seward.

In the northwest, to the left of Seward and eighteen miles away, Mount Morris is in view, distinguished by two successive cliffs on its left margin. There is a tower on its summit. Duck Lake and Jenkins Pond are to the left of Morris. Then comes the upper end of Long Lake, plainly in view, with Round Pond somewhat nearer. Kempshall Mountain stands out boldly, cutting off a part of the view of Long Lake. Directly under it one can see a bit of Corner Pond. Just visible over the left shoulder of Kempshall is the summit of Owl's Head. It is on the farther side of Long Lake and is twenty miles away. In line with the left slope of Kempshall is Catlin Lake, while somewhat nearer is Deer Pond.

From the south lookout on the summit of Santanoni, reached by the trail that winds through the scrub, a segment of the horizon is visible toward the southwest. Nine miles away Goodenow Mountain is in view, readily distinguished by the tall steel tower on its summit. Almost in line with the top of Goodenow stands Snowy, near Indian Lake, twenty-nine miles away. Farther to the right the summit of Blue Mountain rises above intervening ridges.

The return from the summit of Santanoni will

ordinarily occupy three and a half to four hours. The round trip distance from the road to the summit of the mountain and return is about thirteen miles, and the total time to allow for the round trip journey is ordinarily eight or nine hours.

The name of Santanoni is said to be derived from the Indian word 'Si-non-do-wanne,' and this in turn is ascribed to an Indian version of the name 'Saint Anthony.'

CHAPTER XXIV

VANDERWHACKER MOUNTAIN

An interesting, ledgy, and steep-sided cone that stands alone and commands a very wide view in all directions. The summit is available by an excellent trail, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. This distance may be reduced if a car is used to approach the base of the mountain, following an old wood-road. Usually light cars can do this with safety. Time, main highway to summit and return, 6 to 7 hours. Time, wood-road to summit and return, 4 to 5 hours.

SOUTHWEST of the high peaks of the Adirondacks stands Vanderwhacker Mountain, an isolated cone rising to a height of 3385 feet above sea level. It has long been a favorite mountain because of the very wide expanse of country that it overlooks. Situated as it is at a considerable distance from any peaks that are of greater altitude, it offers to the tramper a panorama that stretches league upon league. An excellent trail leads to its summit and an observation tower surmounts its rocky crest. The path is marked with red discs.

The Hudson River as it flows south from Lake Sanford takes a course directly toward Vanderwhacker until a few miles northeast of it. The stream then makes a broad bend to the west and northwest, receives the waters of Newcomb River,

swings around to the south, and skirts the west slopes of Vanderwhacker for a long distance. When seven miles southwest of the mountain, the river bends sharply to the east, at the point where Indian River joins it.

Thus, the region in which Vanderwhacker lies is bounded on three sides by the Hudson. On the fourth side the slopes drain into the Boreas River, which joins the Hudson southeast of the mountain. Within this large rectangle there are two other substantial heights besides Vanderwhacker, including Polaris, 2524 feet high, and Beaver Mountain, 2906 feet high. But Vanderwhacker tops the higher of these by nearly five hundred feet.

There are two trails to the summit of the mountain. One of them comes from the neighborhood of Newcomb, near Harris Lake, but it is not regularly cleared or marked. The other approaches the mountain from the east and is the path used by the fire observer. It is maintained in good order, is marked with signs, and is readily followed.

The beginning of this trail is adjacent to the point where the highway connecting North Creek and Long Lake crosses the Boreas River. This is eighteen miles from North Creek village and twenty-five miles from Long Lake. On the east side of the highway at this place there is a public camp site maintained by the State Conserva-

tion Department. The trail begins on the opposite side of the river from the camp site, starting from a small opening at the end of an iron bridge. There is a Conservation Department sign indicating the route.

For more than two miles the path follows a wood-road. In dry weather this road is passable for light automobiles, offering no difficulties that a car of moderate weight cannot manage. It goes over several knolls and follows a southwesterly course. Although it is by no means a thoroughfare, it is in use from time to time as a means of access to camps at Moose Pond, which lies south of Vanderwhacker Mountain.

A mile and a half from the main highway the road crosses Vanderwhacker Brook, a considerable stream coming from the right. This brook drains the northeast slopes of the mountain and finds its outlet in the Boreas River. At the point where the wood-road crosses the stream the altitude is about a hundred feet lower than that at the main highway, where the trail begins.

Three quarters of a mile beyond this point the wood-road draws near to a brook on the left, but does not cross it. A few minutes farther the trail to Vanderwhacker leaves the wood-road squarely on the right, this fork being marked with a sign.

The trail to the mountain now begins to ascend

gradually in a hardwood forest. In ten minutes it passes through a flat, swampy region and soon after that crosses two brooks, which come from the left. Just beyond these crossings there is a small log cabin which was once occupied by the fire observer. Here the trail turns to the right, passing to the rear of the cabin.

The distance from the main highway to this point is about three and a half miles and the altitude here is one hundred and fifty feet above that at the beginning of the trail. The distance from the cabin to the summit of the mountain is two miles, and the climb to the summit is sixteen hundred feet.

After leaving the cabin the path ascends moderately through a hardwood forest and in twenty minutes arrives at an opening in which stands a small house that now serves as the observer's quarters. Passing this the path begins to climb steadily and sometimes steeply, though it offers no real difficulties. After a time it skirts a small wooded knoll on the right and then passes along a narrow ridge from which the forested slopes descend steeply on either side.

Again climbing at a fairly sharp angle the trail finally emerges in a small, cleared space on the ledgy crest of the mountain. The summit is a sharp cone with steep descents on three sides. It

is wooded except for two or three outlooks from ledges, but a modern steel observation tower, with a stairway and a room on top, affords a clear view in all directions. In the high rock on the mountain's crest visitors can find a copper plate bearing the date 1880 and recording the fact that this mountain was one of the triangulation points in the survey of the Adirondack region.

The high peaks of the Adirondacks lie northeast from Vanderwhacker, fifteen to twenty miles away. Mount MacIntyre stands out plainly, with the deep notch of Avalanche Pass on its right. In line with it is Mount Adams, on the summit of which is a fire-tower. On the right of the Pass rises the sharp pyramid of Mount Colden, bordered on the right by Redfield. Just back of the summit of Redfield rises Mount Marcy, its summit cone plainly visible. In line with Marcy is North River Mountain, and directly in line, but somewhat nearer, is Perch Pond.

Marcy is bordered on the right by a deep cleft margined by Haystack Mountain. Allen is in line with the left slopes of Haystack. The Gothics, farther away and appearing much lower, are on Haystack's right and are followed by the Sawteeth.

Again there is a deep cleft made by the valley in which lie the Ausable Lakes. On its right the

summit of Mount Colvin leads up to the higher summit of Nippletop. The cleft of Hunter's Pass follows, and on its right, in turn, is Mount Dix. Through Hunter's Pass a part of Rocky Peak Ridge is in view. In line with Dix and extending to the right is the Boreas Range, with a fire tower on its highest point, and just behind this is McComb.

A group of lesser summits now follow, leading around to Pharaoh Mountain in the southeast, twenty-three miles distant. There is an observation tower on Pharaoh, visible in clear weather. Still farther to the right the view picks up Black Mountain and Erebus, which are beyond Lake George and are thirty-one miles away.

Close under the slopes of Vanderwhacker in the south a part of Moose Pond is in view. Crane Mountain is over its right margin, twenty-nine miles distant, while a little farther to the right and ten miles nearer Gore Mountain stands out plainly. Each of these has a fire tower on its crest.

Beaver Mountain is close by in the southwest, its summit two and a half miles distant. On its right are Beaver Ponds and on their right is Split Rock Pond. Snowy Mountain, near Indian Lake, is in line with the knoll between these two ponds, and Panther Mountain, which follows Snowy on the right, is over Split Rock Pond. Polaris is three

miles distant, south of west. On its right are glimpses of the Chain Lakes, and over them is the square top of Blue Mountain, fifteen miles away. To the right of Blue the broad mass of Dunbrook Mountain bulks large, with Fishing Brook Mountain on its right. A part of Goodenow River is in line with the latter summit.

In the northwest Goodenow Mountain is readily distinguished by the very high tower on its summit. Behind it and eight miles farther away is Kempshall. In the north Lake Harris is plainly in view, six miles away. Over its right margin Seward is visible, eighteen miles distant, and this is followed closely on the right by the high and outstanding bulk of Santanoni. Henderson follows Santanoni, with the Sawteeth Range filling the notch between them. The flat top of MacNaughton comes next, followed by Wallface which, in turn, gives way to MacIntyre.

Vanderwhacker Mountain derives its name from that of an early settler who lived at its foot and was the only pioneer to take up his residence at the actual base of the mountain. He lived on an old road connecting the village of Minerva with Newcomb. This road, now abandoned, skirted the south base of the mountain and swung around its westerly slopes. Traces of it may still be seen in the woods.

The return trip from the summit of Vanderwhacker to the main highway can be accomplished by rapid walkers in two hours, although somewhat more is the usual allowance. The total distance from the highway to the summit and return is eleven miles, and the total time required for the round-trip journey is ordinarily six or seven hours, allowing for a stay on the summit. The distance may be reduced by nearly a half, and the time may be cut to four or five hours if a conveyance is available to cover that part of the trail which follows the wood-road.

CHAPTER XXV

BOREAS MOUNTAIN

A moderate climb to a bold, rocky crown rewards the trampler with a splendid panorama of the high peaks of the Adirondacks. Distance, public road to summit and return, 6 miles. Time, 4 to 5 hours. A good trail and a satisfactory mountain.

FROM various summits in the Adirondacks one can see a mountain south of the Great Range and bordering on the Elk Lake region that has the appearance of an uninteresting ridge. It does not look like a distinctive summit that would be worth a considerable journey in order to climb to its crown.

As a matter of fact, however, Boreas is well worth a visit. Its actual summit is not a level ridge but is a bold, rocky knob with precipitous sides. While in general the mountain is heavily wooded, its rugged crest is open and gives a view in every direction, even without climbing the fire observer's tower that is available. Its panorama of the high peaks of the Adirondacks, all the way from Santanoni to McComb, with island-dotted Elk Lake in the foreground on the northeast, is one of the best in the whole Adirondack region.

There is, in fact, no other readily accessible mountain from which one commands a more striking view of this whole array of high summits.

The trail to the summit is excellent and the round trip from a public road can be made comfortably in a half-day. The start of the trail is on the west side of the road leading to Elk Lake. This road branches to the north from the highway connecting Tahawus with the main thoroughfare that leads past Schroon Lake. The point where it branches is two miles west of the village of Blue Ridge. While the road is well traveled by motor cars, its start is somewhat hidden because it swings up a hill between a house and barn.

Proceeding north on this road in the direction of Elk Lake for three miles, one crosses the outlet of Clear Lake. Just beyond, on the left, is a grassy field. The trail starts here and is marked by a sign. The summit of Boreas is plainly in view to the west.

The trail at first descends a little, passing through a birch and maple woods. In ten minutes it crosses a large stream called 'The Branch,' making the crossing by a log bridge at a dam. Continuing over a relatively flat region it arrives in ten minutes more at a small brook coming from the right, crosses this, and now begins to climb moderately. The distance from the highway to

this brook is three quarters of a mile. The distance from this point to the summit of the mountain is two and a quarter miles, and the climb is about eighteen hundred feet.

In five minutes the trail passes an old lumber camp, turns sharply to the left just beyond, and at once to the right, proceeding near a brook, which is on the right. It now follows an old lumber road and is a wide, well-cleared path. In twenty minutes it crosses a stream which comes from the left and in another fifteen minutes passes the observer's cabin, which is on the left. Just beyond this it crosses a stream which comes from the right. The altitude here is seven hundred feet above that at the public road, and the distance to this point is a little more than two miles.

Still following a logging-road the path now begins to climb more briskly, crossing a brook three times. In twenty-five minutes from the observer's cabin the trail passes a spring, close by on the left. The distance from this point to the top of the mountain is half a mile and the remaining climb is about four hundred feet. The latter part of the climb is winding and rocky, and soon begins to disclose views of the mountains to the east and north. Emerging on the crown of the mountain, the trail reaches open ledges and the fire observer's tower.

At once, the whole array of high peaks is displayed. McComb and Dix rise high and splendid, the former on the right and the latter on the left, beyond the waters of Elk Lake in the northeast. Nippletop is to the left of Dix, with Hunter's Pass between them, and the Giant is in view through the pass. To the left of Nippletop is Colvin, with Elk Pass between them. Then follow the Wolf Jaws, the Sawteeth, and the Gothics, the latter marked with slides and much bare rock.

Saddleback lies to the left of the Gothics and is closely followed by Basin. Haystack comes next, with its pointed cone, and is followed by Marcy, rising high and unmistakable, seven and a half miles away in an air line. On the left of Marcy are Skylight, Redfield, and Allen, in turn, with the MacIntyre range immediately to the left.

A dip in the skyline leads down to Adams with its fire-tower. On its left are Cheney Cobble and the long bulk of North River Mountain, while to the rear one sees Seymour, Seward, and Santanoni. The direction of the latter is approximately northwest by compass. It is fourteen miles distant.

To the left of North River Mountain the skyline drops again. Kempshall stands out first in this region. Blue Mountain is farther to the left and is almost due west, twenty-eight miles away. Snowy is south of west and is thirty-three miles distant.

To the left of a spur of Boreas one can see Sand Pond. Gore Mountain is over its right margin. Crane is on the horizon somewhat to its left.

In the south, the Blue Ridge, seven miles away, is prominent. On its left an array of lesser peaks begins that leads around to the high crest of McComb. Clear Pond is plainly in view in the valley south of east.

The distance from the public road to the summit of Boreas is three miles. The climb to the summit occupies, ordinarily, two to three hours, and the descent about an hour and a half. Five hours is ample for the round trip, including a visit on the summit.

CHAPTER XXVI

AMPERSAND

One of the most beautiful views in the Adirondacks. A famous mountain and one that deserves its fame. Round trip 6 miles from a public road and return, time 5 or 6 hours allowing for a stay on the summit. The trail one of unusual interest.

FEW Adirondack mountains have attained the fame achieved by Ampersand, and few equal it in exquisite beauty of view. It is not one of the higher summits, for its crest is only 3365 feet above sea level, and it does not offer the austere attraction of such peaks as Haystack or MacIntyre. But it stands at the margin of a beautiful lake region, and it is bordered by a company of wild and splendid peaks. Most beautiful of all it has beneath its own rugged slopes an isolated, forest-margined lake, across which one looks toward near-by high mountains.

On the shore of this same lake, just before the outbreak of the Civil War, a company of famous men gathered to spend a wilderness vacation together. In 1858 they had journeyed to the Adirondacks and established 'The Philosophers' Camp,' as they called it, on the margin of Follansbee Pond. Emerson was of their number and described their

experiences and their camp in his poem 'The Adirondacs.' William James Stillman wrote of it in his autobiography. Others in the party were Louis Agassiz, James Russell Lowell, Judge Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar, and John Holmes.

After their taste of woods life at Follansbee the group, with a few additional members, bought a large tract including Ampersand Pond, opened a cart-road to it, built a cabin, and laid their plans to enjoy many vacations together. The outbreak of the Civil War upset it all and the plans were abandoned. But for a brief season Ampersand tasted the company of as remarkable a group of famous men as ever made camp in the woods together.

At that time the summit of the mountain was densely wooded. When it was selected as one of the observation points for triangulation surveys in 1873, its crest was covered with forest and the surveyors were obliged to cut lanes through the trees in order to measure angles to neighboring mountains. Now the crown is bare rock, but its surroundings, the vistas from its crest, and the wonderful panorama continue to offer the memorable charm that is this mountain's gift to those who climb it.

A trail maintained by the State Conservation Department leads from the highway on the north-



AMPERSAND LAKE, WITH MOUNT SEWARD IN THE
DISTANCE

west side of the mountain to its summit. In its upper part it is a remarkably interesting piece of trail construction, largely the work of Warren Rice, who for many years was the fire observer on the mountain and who esteemed it for its real worth. In the last half-mile the ascent is seven hundred feet, the path climbing over ledges and steep slopes. For hundreds of feet wooden or log steps have been provided. The route is marked with red discs.

The beginning of the trail is on the south side of the road that leads from Saranac Lake village around the lower part of the Saranac lakes to Wawbeek and Tupper Lake. Five miles from Saranac Lake this road crosses the Saranac River. There is a public camp site here and the spot is a beautiful one for an overnight stay. Five miles farther this same road brings one to the start of the Ampersand trail. This is opposite Middle Saranac Lake, the shores of which are a short distance away to the north, through the woods. An old path leads from the lake to the beginning of the trail.

A sign placed by the Conservation Department at the highway marks the start of the route to the mountain. The distance from the public road to the summit, allowing for the windings of the path, is about three miles, and the total climb is seventeen hundred feet.

Within fifteen minutes after leaving the highway the trail crosses four small brooks which come from the right, and in ten minutes more there is still another brook crossing. This part of the route is in beautiful forest, at first largely hardwoods but later sprinkled with evergreens. The trail ascends but little for the first mile, the gain in altitude being no more than one hundred and fifty feet.

Half an hour from the highway the path begins to ascend more steadily, still in splendid forest. In fifteen minutes more it arrives at mossy ledges, and just beyond these it reaches a small opening in the woods in which is situated the cabin of the fire observer who is stationed on the summit. There is an open-front lean-to here, and there is a cold brook near by. The distance to this point is about two and a half miles and the altitude here is five hundred and seventy-five feet above that at the beginning of the trail.

Passing a brook beyond the cabin the path intersects an old trail used in hauling material for the observation tower on the crest of the mountain. Crossing this the path at once begins to ascend steeply, with the aid of log and wooden steps. Half an hour from the observer's cabin another brook is crossed, coming from the right. The gain in altitude above the cabin is five hundred and fifty feet.

Beyond this there are still more steps. Finally, the path comes out upon a knoll in the midst of ferns, mossy rocks and evergreen woods, winds about through these, ascends the final rocky crown of the mountain, and emerges upon bare, rounded ledges. A little way beyond the actual summit and somewhat to the left stands the steel observation tower occupied by the fire observer. Visitors are welcome in the tower while the observer is on duty. But in any case the prospect from the bare crest is unobstructed.

The view has in it such varied elements of beauty that the tramper will be grateful for plenty of time to enjoy the various parts of the panorama. Most striking of all, however, is that part which looks down upon Ampersand Lake, close under the mountain in the south, and then rises to take in the great, wooded slopes and heights of the mountains that lie beyond it. Mount Seward bulks largest of all over the right part of the lake, its flanks darkly wooded. On its left and a little farther to the rear is Seymour, and that in turn is followed by Santanoni, with Panther Peak at its left margin, standing out plainly ten miles away.

In the notch to the left of Santanoni lies Henderson, much lower than its neighbors, while on its left in turn, and farther to the rear, there is just a glimpse of North River Mountain beyond Lake

Sanford. Cold Brook Mountain follows in the foreground, and behind it is the many-notched top of the Sawteeth Range. Close by and farther to the left the rounded top of Van Dorrien occupies the foreground, its slopes dropping away to Ampersand Lake.

Over the highest point of Van Dorrien the crowning peak of MacIntyre rises high, twelve and a half miles distant, while lesser peaks of the same mountain are in view to right and left. Wright Peak, which is a low summit of MacIntyre on its left or northerly margin, drops away just enough to disclose on its left flank the crest of Mount Dix, twenty-three miles distant.

Street Mountain, Nye, and Big Slide follow in order, giving way in turn to Cascade Mountain, with Cascade Notch deep on its left. This is followed by summits leading to the Sentinel Range, which ends in the valley of Wilmington Notch. On the left of the Notch rises the prominent cone of Mount Whiteface, eighteen miles distant, with McKenzie on its left.

The view now picks up lakes nearer at hand, beginning with Oseetah, in line with McKenzie Mountain. Kiwassa follows it, with Second Lake close on the left and nearer, and this is followed by Lower Saranac, with its many bays and its wooded islands. Colby Pond is over its right margin.

Over the islands in Saranac, Loon Lake Mountain and De Bar are visible on the horizon. Over the left margin of the lake one catches a glimpse of Lower Saint Regis, followed closely by Lake Clear. Boot Bay Mountain stands in the space between Lower Saranac and Middle Saranac, while behind it and nine miles farther away rises Saint Regis Mountain.

A broad stretch of Middle Saranac is in view, with glimpses of Upper Saranac beyond its farther margin and to the left. Still farther away on the left one can see a part of Raquette Pond and Tupper Lake. Stony Creek Mountain, three miles away, shuts out further view of Tupper Lake. Just to the left of its crown one can see Mount Morris, fourteen miles distant.

A group of lower summits lead around to Long Lake, with Kempshall Mountain rising from its left margin. The summit of Blue Mountain is just visible to the left of Kempshall, twenty-seven miles distant. Nearer slopes now intervene, leading up to the commanding crest of Seward.

The return from the crest of Ampersand can be accomplished comfortably in an hour and a half to two hours. The usual allowance for the round trip from the highway to the summit and return is five or six hours, allowing for a stay on the top.

Various explanations have been offered as to the

origin of the name 'Ampersand.' The theory that seems as probable as any ascribes it to the brown or amber color of the sand in the streams at its foot.

CHAPTER XXVII

MOUNT MORRIS

An interesting mountain with a composite view of lakes and summits in beautiful array, including a vista of the Great Range and glimpses of many other major peaks. The top an open ledge, surmounted by an observation tower. The trail excellent. Round trip, motor highway to summit and return, 9 miles, time 6 hours.

MOUNT MORRIS possesses the elements of a beautiful view. Around the foot of its slopes from west to north lies Tupper Lake, with other forest-rimmed bodies of water near by. To the rear of the mountain splendid peaks begin, rising row on row to the distant Great Range, visible through a cleft between Seward and Santanoni. And the mountain itself is structurally interesting, with its cliffs that drop off from the highest point, like giant steps.

The summit is 3163 feet above sea level, and therefore stands 1621 feet higher than Tupper Lake. The trail begins on the east side of the motor thoroughfare that leads from Tupper Lake village to Long Lake. A mile and a half south of the village the highway crosses the Raquette River, just below the outlet of Tupper Lake, and then swings west and south along the lake margin. Two and a half miles from the village there is a sign on

the left, at the beginning of a private road leading to a preserve known as 'Read and Strange Park.' The route to Mount Morris starts here. Motor cars are not permitted beyond this point.

The path to the mountain coincides with this private road for two miles, gradually ascending as it goes. It then leaves the road on the right at a sign, and from this point on is a well-marked trail. The altitude at the place where the trail branches off is three hundred fifty feet above that at the motor highway. The distance from this spot to the top of the mountain is two and a half miles and the remaining climb is about thirteen hundred feet.

Fifteen minutes after leaving the private road the trail crosses a brook coming from the right and in a few minutes crosses it again. The path is open and well marked, and the telephone wire to the observer's cabin runs near by. In two or three places the trail has been relocated or straightened, but where there is a choice of way, either will take one to the same destination.

Half an hour from the private road the trail enters a level stretch and soon passes an old lumber camp, keeping to the right beyond the buildings. For a time now it follows logging-roads, but in about ten minutes it turns to the left, crosses a brook, and soon passes out of the logged area.

In another fifteen minutes the path arrives at the observer's cabin, which is about nine hundred feet above the point where the trail branched from the private road. The distance to the cabin from the private road is two miles. There is a spring close to the cabin.

Bearing to the right of the cabin the path soon crosses an open knoll from which there are wide views, drops into a wooded hollow, and then climbs over ledges to the open rock summit of the mountain. A steel observation tower stands on the highest point and this is open to the public at such times as the observer is on hand. If the tower does not chance to be open, however, one can enjoy the panorama from the ledges at its foot.

The first impression of the view from Morris is contributed by Tupper Lake in its forest setting. From west around to north the lake is in view, just beyond the base of the mountain. County Line Island lies about midway and other islands are visible on its right. Beyond the right margin of the lake, almost due north, one can see Tupper Lake village, close to the shore of Raquette Pond, with Wolf Pond beyond it. To the left a part of Piercefield Flow is in sight, with Gull Pond in line with it and nearer. Again, to the left, over County Line Island, Arab Mountain stands out. Beyond the

left end of Tupper Lake one catches a glimpse of Horseshoe Lake.

To the right of Tupper Lake village the Raquette River winds its crooked way, beyond the waters of Simon Pond. On the horizon in this direction De Bar Mountain, Loon Lake Mountain, and Lyon Mountain are in view. Almost in line with the latter there are glimpses of Upper Saranac Lake. On the right a bit of Lower Saranac can be seen, and still farther to the right a small part of Middle Saranac. Follansby Pond now follows on the right, very much nearer. Over the woods between Follansby and Middle Saranac, Mount Whiteface stands out on the horizon, a symmetrical cone, with Moose and McKenzie on its left. Ampersand is to the right.

Somewhat farther to the right Seward rises boldly, beyond many intervening ridges and summits. The long line of its crest drops away to disclose the cone of Mount Marcy, the summit of Haystack, and the rounded crown of Skylight, all of these about twenty-eight miles distant. On their right the long length of Santanoni follows.

Lesser summits now occupy the view. In the southeast Vanderwhacker shows up distinctly, twenty-six miles away. On its right, but fourteen miles nearer, Kempshall rises as a high, round summit. Duck Lake is close at hand, three and a

half miles away, with Jenkins Pond on its right and a little nearer. Over the latter, Blue Mountain is in view, twenty miles away.

Still farther to the right one can see West Mountain which is situated close to Raquette Lake. Almost in line with it are parts of Little Tupper Lake, with Round Lake on their right. Many lesser summits now carry the view around to the region west of Tupper Lake.

The round trip journey from the motor highway to the summit of Mount Morris and return is about nine miles. The climb is not arduous or steep, and the round trip can ordinarily be made in six hours, allowing for a stay on the summit.

CHAPTER XXVIII

SAINT REGIS MOUNTAIN

A mountain that is set down in the midst of a multitude of lakes, with a panorama of high peaks on the horizon. The view extensive. The climb an easy one. Round trip $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Time $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 hours.

SAINT REGIS is an outpost mountain, situated only seven miles within the north boundary of the Adirondack Park. There are no great summits near it and, therefore, its panorama is of a different order from that of such peaks as Noonmark, Colden or Adams, which give one an intimate view of still greater mountains close at hand. But it stands high enough to look abroad over a wide territory; it is surrounded by a multitude of lakes that look up to it from the depths of forest; and in the distance its view sweeps across a long line of peaks on the horizon that include some of the highest in the Adirondacks.

Saint Regis enjoys the distinction of being one of the mountains measured with rod and level from a point of accurately determined altitude above sea level. When a line was run from Westport to Marcy, in the seventies, an extension of it was carried to Lake Placid, and later this extension

was pushed northwesterly to Upper Saint Regis Lake. Finally, in 1878, a branch line was extended to the summit of the mountain, and thus its altitude was accurately determined as 2888.298 feet above the ocean.

Two years before this the summit was the scene of a lively conflagration which, it so happened, resulted from the burning of brush by surveyors and their guides. Lumbering operations had left behind dead trees and slash that stood in the way of surveying operations. Fire seemed to offer a safe means of disposing of some of the brush, but, as so often happens, it got beyond control. As it chanced, the flames did not creep down the mountain, but the crest of Saint Regis to-day is largely bare rock ledge.

The trail to the mountain is reached by taking the road that branches from the main highway connecting Paul Smith's with Malone and leads west in the direction of the railway station known as Bay Pond. A little less than two miles from the hotel the road passes a small dam on the left, and here there is a less traveled road leading to the left to a boat-landing on Lower Saint Regis Lake. The distance from the Bay Pond road to the landing is half a mile.

The trail leaves the road opposite the boat-landing and is marked by a sign. A short distance

beyond the beginning the telephone wire that leads to the fire observer's lookout will be seen alongside the path. For the first twenty minutes there is little or no climbing, the trail proceeding through woods, sometimes over knolls and sometimes through hollows. Two brooks are crossed that come from the right. Twenty-five minutes from the start of the trail a path comes in from the left. There is now a gradual ascent, and very soon a little-used trail arrives on the right, following the boundary of the former Rockefeller estate.

Thirty-five minutes from the start the trail passes the observer's cabin on the left and immediately enters a region of big hardwood trees. Fifteen minutes later the path begins to cross a region that was burned years ago and is now grown up to small saplings. Soon the grade becomes more pronounced and presently the path climbs over ledges from which there are views across Saint Regis Lake to the mountains. The distance to this point is two miles, and the altitude here is seven hundred feet above the start.

The path now crosses more ledges, from which there are still wider views, and presently the observation tower on the summit comes into view ahead. For the last five minutes the trail climbs over several ledges, three of which are provided with short ladders.

The total distance from the end of the road to the summit of the mountain is two and three quarters miles, and the climb is 1265 feet. The time required for the ascent is ordinarily about two hours, though good trampers will do it readily in an hour and a half. The return trip requires an hour to an hour and a half.

The view from the crest of Saint Regis includes a bewildering array of lakes, big and little, all of them in a setting of deep forest. Here and there on some of the more populous a summer camp may be distinguished, but for the most part the woods seem from this altitude as if uninhabited.

Upper Saint Regis is near by on the east, its shore line winding and curving this way and that. The island that lies in the larger part of the lake, a short distance from Upper Saint Regis village, looks like a peninsula as seen from the mountain. Almost directly over it, twenty-one miles distant, rises Mount Whiteface, cleancut and prominent on the horizon. On its left are the Wilmington Mountains and on its right are Moose and McKenzie, these two appearing as one high ridge, closely joined.

Spitfire Lake stands out plainly beyond the left part of Upper Saint Regis, while on its left and a little farther away is Lower Saint Regis, with Paul Smith's on the farther shore. To the left again is

Osgood Pond. In the same direction, close under Saint Regis Mountain, lie the two Spectacle Lakes. On their left Black Pond is in view, while on its right margin one can see Barnum Pond. On the horizon back of Black Pond, Loon Lake Mountain stands out. On its left is Sable, followed by the low, sharp peak of Baldface, and in turn by the broad, high bulk of De Bar.

Almost straight north by compass a long, narrow body of water, stretching from left to right, gleams in the woods, while beyond it is a small, round, and isolated pond. The former is Follansby Junior, and the latter Quebec Pond.

In the west the rocky ridges of Saint Regis drop away on the left to disclose a part of Big Fish Pond, close under the mountain, with glimpses of Little Fish, Little Long Pond, and Nellie Pond, close by. In the southwest, nineteen miles away, a part of Tupper Lake is in view, with Mount Morris rising boldly on its left. Directly in line with the latter one can see a part of Ochre Pond, close under Saint Regis Mountain. Slightly to the left and three miles farther away, Hoel Pond is plainly in view, with Follansby Clear, Pottery Pond, and tiny sections of others beyond it.

In the south Saint Regis Pond spreads its broad surface and its many bays, two miles away. Over its right margin one can see Upper Saranac Lake,

while Little Clear Pond is over its left border, with Lake Clear just beyond and stretching far to the left. One end of Little Long Pond is in line with a part of Lake Clear.

Over the right end of the wider expanse of Lake Clear, Mount Marcy is visible on the distant horizon. MacIntyre is on its right, and this is followed by the Sawteeth Range. Ampersand is in view, though it does not rise prominently. It is in line with the right end of the large island in Saint Regis Pond. On the right of Ampersand are Seymour, Santanoni, and Seward, the latter in line with the left end of Upper Saranac Lake.

To the left of Marcy the skyline of the Great Range is in view, including Basin, Saddleback, and the Gothics. Directly over the center of Lake Clear is Big Slide Mountain, with Cascade following closely on its left. This, in turn, is followed by the Sentinel Range, which leads up to McKenzie and Moose, and thus to Whiteface.

CHAPTER XXIX

KEMPSHALL MOUNTAIN

A broad, rounded mountain, readily reached by a round trip of 5 miles from a point on the shore of Long Lake, or by a total tramp of 14 miles if the journey is made all the way afoot. The view a wide one. Round trip time from lake, $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 hours. Round trip by tote-road and trail, 8 to 10 hours.

KEMPSHALL MOUNTAIN is a widely spread mass, situated near the lower end of Long Lake. It is in the midst of a broad region of lesser altitude, and is not crowded about by other near-by summits, as are many Adirondack peaks. Therefore, its heavy bulk stands somewhat alone, and the view from the tower on its almost level top covers many scores of square miles.

The mountain is frequently climbed from Long Lake by parties who make the approach by water. Less often it is visited by trampers who come all the way afoot, following the old tote-road that skirts the shore of Long Lake and intersects the trail leading from the lake to the top of the mountain. In either case the route from the base of the mountain to its summit is the same.

The trail from the lake shore begins at a small cove on the easterly side of the lake, a little more

than five miles from Long Lake village. There is a small cabin among the trees in the cove, and there is evidence of much camping. A sign indicates the start. A few rods after leaving the cove this trail intersects the path that skirts the shore of the lake, coming from Long Lake village. There are signs at this intersection.

The path from Long Lake village is a part of the Northville-Placid Trail, laid out by the Adirondack Mountain Club. The first two and a half miles from the village may be done by motor car. The route follows the motor thoroughfare up the hill for a mile and a half and then branches on the first road leading to the left. A mile from the main highway this road passes a private way on the left which gives access to Camp Saint Mary. Just beyond this point small metal markers on the right indicate the start of the path.

The trail leads past a few trees and through a rough field. Soon it enters woods and becomes an open, unmistakable path, readily found and followed. It goes up and down over knolls and ridges and is really a beautiful woods walk.

About twenty-five minutes after leaving the public road the trail crosses a stream and arrives at an open camp maintained by the Adirondack Mountain Club and available to trampers. Long Lake is to the left about a hundred yards distant.

Continuing through splendid woods the path arrives at another considerable stream in about half an hour. Here the lake is immediately on the left.

Crossing this stream and proceeding straight ahead for about forty minutes, the trail passes an old lumber camp on the right and at once skirts a set of buildings on the left. In another fifteen minutes it reaches the intersection of the trail from the lake shore to the summit of Kempshall Mountain. Straight ahead, the Northville-Placid Trail proceeds to the Cold River country and Shattuck Clearing which is eight miles distant.

Turning squarely to the right at the intersection and proceeding toward the mountain, one climbs moderately at first, following red trail markers. In thirty-five or forty minutes the trail swings to the left across a stream. Beyond this it climbs more rapidly. In about half an hour it begins to reach the broad summit of the mountain, which it follows in the midst of woods for about fifteen minutes, finally arriving at the steel observation tower and the observer's cabin. There is a small lean-to near the tower. No sure supply of water is available on the summit.

The view from the tower takes in much country and many mountains. Long Lake is a prominent part of the near-by panorama. A part of it is hidden by a spur of Kempshall and another part by

another outlying height known as Blueberry Mountain. But much of the lake is visible, all of the way from the inlet on the southwest to the lower end on the north.

A part of Lake Eaton is in view beyond the upper reaches of Long Lake, in the region of Long Lake village. Owl's Head Mountain is directly over the left end of Lake Eaton. Mud Pond and Rock Lake lie farther to the right. A little west of north Mount Morris stands out on the horizon. East of north by compass Saint Regis Mountain lines up with the island near the lower end of Long Lake. De Bar Mountain is over that part of Long Lake that one can see farthest to the right.

Round Pond is close at hand on the northeast. Seymour is over its left margin. Seward rises high, farther to the left, and is followed by Ampersand. Catlin Lake lies to the right of Round Pond and is east by compass. Over it one gets a glimpse of Mount Marcy, just visible to the right of Santaroni, which rises very high and broad. Redfield is on the right of Marcy and is followed by Allen.

To the right of Allen the summit of Dix can be made out. The long ridge of North River Mountain follows, and on its right in turn is Boreas with its fire-tower. Vanderwhacker stands out like a haystack in the southeast. Nearer and directly in line is Goodenow. Snowy Mountain is west of

south. Blue Mountain rises high somewhat to its right.

The distance from the lake shore to the top of Kempshall by trail is two and a half miles. Ordinarily, about two hours will be occupied in the ascent from the lake to the summit and about an hour and a half in the descent.

The distance from the public road near Camp Saint Mary to the foot of the mountain by the Northville-Placid Trail is approximately four and a half miles. Ordinarily, two and a half to three hours will be required for the trip afoot from the public road to the base of the mountain.

Thus, if the approach to the mountain is by water, about four hours is a fair allowance for the trip from the lake to the summit and return. If the approach is all the way afoot, the journey is one that usually requires from eight to ten hours for the round trip.

The height of Kempshall is 3366 feet above sea level. That of Long Lake is 1630 feet. The climb from the lake, therefore, is a little more than seventeen hundred feet. The total climb in the approach by the Northville-Placid Trail is three or four hundred feet more because of ridges crossed in reaching the base of the mountain.

CHAPTER XXX

OWL'S HEAD MOUNTAIN

A mountain of moderate height but of many attractions. The summit interesting, the trail unusual, and the view one of much beauty. Round trip from the start at Long Lake, 6 miles. Time about 4 hours.

ONE of the first mountains to be selected as an observation point in the original mapping of the Adirondacks was Owl's Head, situated just west of the upper end of Long Lake. It was chosen because of the great number of summits visible from its crest, especially distant peaks in remote parts of the mountain region. It was first measured in October, 1872, and its height was determined at 2825 feet. The correct altitude has since been placed at 2780 feet.

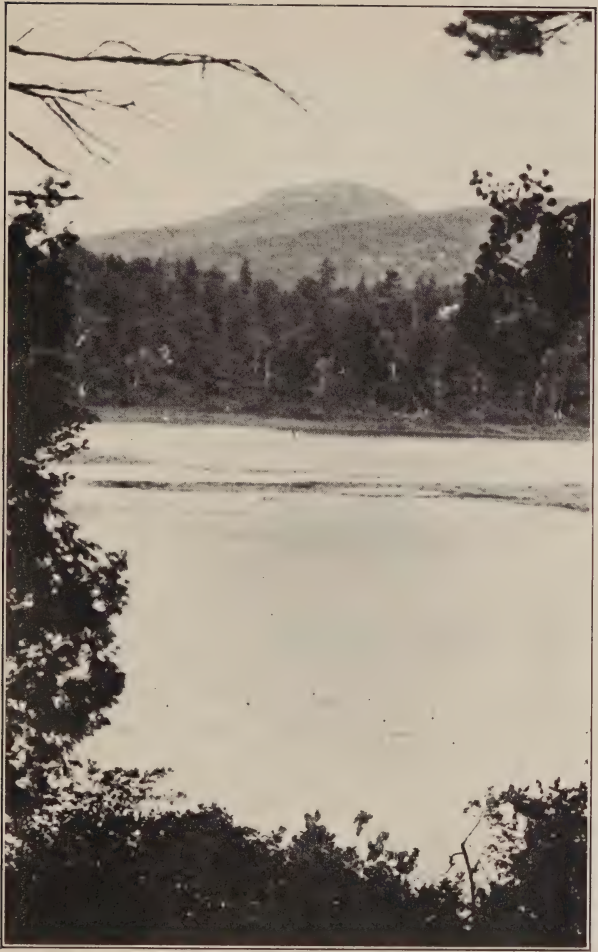
While Owl's Head is not one of the higher Adirondacks, it is nevertheless an interesting mountain with a beautiful view, and it offers ample reward for the moderate effort required to climb to its crown. The summit is rough and broken ledge, largely covered with evergreens, but offering good outlooks from open spaces. There is a modern observation tower on the highest point, provided with a glass-enclosed room on top. An

open-front lean-to in a sheltered spot on the summit is available for overnight campers.

For a period of years James Flynn was the fire observer on Owl's Head. He occupied a cabin situated some distance below the summit rocks, and, like Walter Rice on Ampersand, he looked on his mountain with great pride. The path approaching the summit was made especially attractive, and long rows of steps were built where the trail climbs steep ledges. Flynn is now dead, but the work that he did for his mountain remains, to add to the pleasure of those who visit it.

The geographical situation of Owl's Head is almost in the center of the Adirondack Park. It is southeast of Little Tupper Lake, northeast of Raquette Lake, and just west of Long Lake. Round about it are many bodies of water, with mountains rising here and there near their shores. East and northeast are the high summits of the Adirondacks.

The trail to the summit, maintained by the State Conservation Department, begins as a water trip across the upper end of Long Lake. A boat may be obtained at any one of several points on the shore of the lake, reached by the highway leading south from Long Lake village to Deerland and Raquette Lake Ferry. The lake is narrower where the trail begins and is easily crossed by rowboat or canoe.



OWL'S HEAD, ACROSS LONG LAKE

There is an inlet on the west side of the lake near its head, just south of a wooded knoll. The Conservation Department sign indicating the trail to Owl's Head Mountain is fastened to a stake standing in the water of the lake, at the beginning of the inlet. The winding channel of the inlet is followed to its upper end, a distance of a few hundred yards. Here there is a plainly marked spot where boats are pulled out. The trail will be found leading on from this point.

For the first half-hour the path is nearly level, gradually rising and falling as it makes its way through an attractive forest. The trail is broad and plain. Twenty minutes from the beginning the path crosses a brook which comes from the right and in another fifteen minutes begins a gradual ascent, crossing the slopes of a wooded knoll and swinging somewhat to the right. Presently it descends into a shallow wooded valley between Owl's Head and a lesser summit south-east of the mountain. There are brief glimpses of the main summit ahead and somewhat to the left.

About an hour from the beginning the trail crosses a brook which comes from the right, swings immediately to the left, and begins to ascend in a hardwood forest. In fifteen minutes it passes a good spring which is close by on the left. The alti-

tude here is six hundred and fifty feet above that at the lake and the distance to this point is two and a half miles.

In another ten minutes the observer's cabin is reached. There is an outdoor table here where lunch may be eaten. The distance to this point is two and three quarters miles and the altitude is nine hundred feet above the lake.

Turning to the left at the cabin the path soon begins to zigzag steeply up. Much of the way is provided with log steps and hand-rails. In ten minutes the trail passes an outlook on the left, crosses a short level stretch in the midst of woods, and then emerges on the ledgy top of the mountain, close to the steel observation tower. From an opening near the base of the tower there is an uninterrupted view toward east and south. Other outlooks command other parts of the compass. But the tower itself, easily ascended by a safe stairway, gives the complete panorama.

The distance from the beginning of the trail at the lake to the top of the mountain is three miles, and the time required is ordinarily about two hours.

The first and most vivid impression of the view from the summit of Owl's Head is afforded by the vista of Long Lake, deep in the wooded valley on the east and southeast, with mountain after moun-

tain rising beyond it, and Blue Mountain standing out high and unmistakable in the southeast. The crest of Blue appears squarely cut off. Wooded knolls just to the right of Long Lake and slightly to the right of South Pond, visible beyond Long Lake, give the direction to Blue. There is an observation tower on its summit.

To the left of Blue one catches a glimpse of the distant horizon, and then slopes somewhat nearer lead up to the summit of Dun Brook Mountain, with the crest of Fishing Brook Mountain on the left, over the dark and broad bulk of Mount Sabbatis, which is situated just south of Long Lake village. Two sections of Long Lake are in line with Sabattis. Still another bit of the lake, near the outlet, can be seen in the northeast, to the left of a spur of Owl's Head Mountain.

In line with the farthest gleam of Long Lake rises Seward, with Seymour on its right. The low summit of Street Mountain follows, directly over the spur of Owl's Head already mentioned. Kempshall is much nearer, close on its right, and is followed by Santanoni, twenty miles distant and barely disclosed by the descending slopes of Kempshall. Close on the right of Santanoni rises the cone of Mount Marcy, thirty miles away, with the summit of Mount Adams in line with it, but much lower. These two are directly over that part

of Long Lake which lies to the right of the rugged spur of Owl's Head.

Mount Skylight closely follows Marcy. Somewhat more to the right Mount Dix stands out on the horizon, thirty-seven miles away, over a narrow part of Long Lake and in line with Long Lake village. Dix is marked by a prominent diagonal scar near its summit. North River Mountain is on the right of Dix and is followed by Boreas, which has a fire-tower on its crest.

To the left of the spur of Owl's Head noted above a part of Lake Eaton is in view, just under the mountain. Beyond it are glimpses of Mud Pond and Rock Pond, the latter on the left and barely visible. Ampersand is over the right margin of Rock Pond. Farther around toward the north Grampus Lake is in sight. On its left, fourteen miles away, Mount Morris stands out boldly, a fire-tower on its summit.

In the northeast a part of Little Tupper Lake can be made out, though most of it is hidden. Farther to the left there are glimpses of Flatfish Pond and Rock Pond, followed by a broad expanse of Moose Pond, close at hand. Little Forked Lake is west by compass. On the horizon, somewhat more to the left, West Mountain with its fire-tower is in view. In the southwest Raquette Lake and Forked Lake shine in the midst of forest.

Directly south by compass the mountains near Indian Lake are visible, with Panther Peak showing prominently and Snowy Mountain close by on its right. Lesser summits then lead around to the left to the high bulk of Blue Mountain.

CHAPTER XXXI

BLUE MOUNTAIN

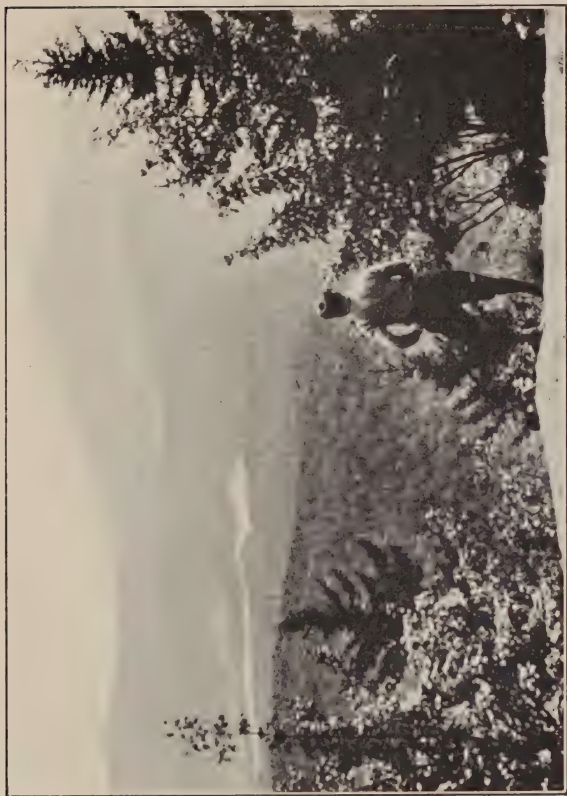
One of the most popular of Adirondack summits, and justly so.

The view a combination of near-by lakes and forested heights, the latter extending to the region of Mount Marcy. A motor highway passes the foot of the mountain. The trail to the summit excellent. Round trip distance $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles, time 4 to 5 hours, including a visit on the top. A modern observation tower makes the view available.

MANY hundreds of visitors to the Adirondacks have long looked upon Blue Mountain as offering one of the most attractive views obtainable from Adirondack summits. Its slopes rise from the shores of Blue Mountain Lake, a beautiful body of water, island-dotted and forest-enclosed. To right and left of the lake, as you look down upon it from the summit of the mountain, other shining waters gleam in the wide-spreading woods.

The famous lake at the foot of the mountain is connected by a continuous waterway with Raquette Lake, eight miles to the west. The Marion River, which carries the waters of Blue Mountain Lake into those of Raquette, widens when a short distance upon its way to form Eagle Lake, and again soon broadens out in Utowana Lake.

Many years ago these three lakes were called the



BLUE MOUNTAIN FROM OWL'S HEAD

Eckford Chain, after Henry Eckford, an engineer who made a study of New York waterways in accordance with an act passed by the New York Legislature in 1811. Some years later Professor Ebenezer Emmons, at work on a geological study of the Adirondacks, renamed the three lakes for the daughters of Henry Eckford. The large body of water at the foot of the mountain he christened Lake Janet, the second Lake Catherine, and the third Lake Marion. Of these three names the third alone now remains as applied to the Marion River.

In the end there was still another rechristening. The first and largest body of water was named, by John E. Holland, Blue Mountain Lake. The second was called Eagle Lake by Ned Buntline. And the third was christened Utowana by Dr. Thomas C. Durant.

Blue Mountain itself was known for a considerable period as Mount Emmons, in honor of Professor Ebenezer Emmons. But it has carried its present name for many decades.

Fifty years ago the top of Blue Mountain was the scene of much activity in the task of mapping the Adirondacks. Broad lanes were cleared through the trees that crowned the crest. Scientific instruments were carried to the top and were set up there in a building erected for the purpose. Per-

haps most interesting of all, the top of the mountain was the scene of a nightly time signal. At this period men were at work in other parts of the Adirondacks, making observations and compiling data for a competent map. In order that these remotely separated observations might be synchronized, a charge of gunpowder was ignited on the summit of Blue at precisely nine o'clock each night.

The mountain enjoys the advantage of being readily accessible. The State highway that connects Long Lake with Indian Lake runs by the foot of it. The trail starts at this highway, and the climb to the summit can readily be made in two hours, while a good tramper will do it in an hour and a half. The return journey need occupy no more than an hour. Thus the summit may be visited in a comfortable half-day trip. The round trip distance from the highway to the summit and return is four and a half miles.

The distance from Long Lake village to the foot of the trail is twelve miles. The route turns to the left at Deerland and follows a road that climbs steadily, passing through a densely wooded region and drawing within sight of South Pond and Minnow Pond. Descending the hill toward Blue Mountain Lake the road passes several summer homes. When within sight of the lake, but still nearly a mile from it, the road passes a sawmill on the

right. The trail starts opposite this, its beginning marked by a sign.

The path crosses a pasture, passes through a turnstile, and soon enters woods. The trail is wide and is much used, the footway being worn by the many visitors who climb the mountain. In twenty minutes it comes out in a small opening from which there is a beautiful view to the west, over Blue Mountain Lake. The altitude here is five hundred and fifty feet above the start of the trail.

Climbing moderately the path makes its way steadily toward the summit of the mountain. Woods border it closely on either side, though the trail itself leads often over bare ledges or rocks. About an hour from the lookout the route passes an old, tumbledown camp on the right and in another five minutes arrives at the observer's cabin, situated just below the highest point of the mountain. The observation tower is a few yards beyond and somewhat to the left.

The summit of Blue Mountain is wooded, but is attractive and interesting. There are ledgy openings and many pleasant places for resting or eating lunch. It is necessary to climb the tower in order to enjoy the view, but the structure is a modern one with a safe stairway, which leads to a room at the summit.

Two elements of the view from Blue Mountain

stand out as the most attractive: first, the sweep of country to the west, with its lakes and its undulating line of ridges and summits, and second, the panorama of splendid mountains northeast and east.

Blue Mountain Lake begins close under the mountain and is unmistakable, with its broad expanse of clear water, its deeply indented shore line, and its islands. On its farther left-hand margin Eagle Lake is closely joined to it, while just beyond this Utowana comes into view, much foreshortened, its farther end hidden by an intervening ridge.

To the left of the narrows connecting Blue Mountain Lake with Eagle Lake, one can see the much smaller Crystal Lake. In the distance, beyond the ridges, parts of Raquette Lake are in sight. To the right of Blue Mountain Lake and close to the foot of the mountain Minnow Pond is in view, followed by Mud Pond with its two deep bays, South Pond with its islands, then a bit of Long Lake, and still farther away, a part of Lake Eaton, which lies to the right of Owl's Head Mountain. Still farther to the right one can see the dark, wooded slopes of Mount Sabattis, which rises just back of Long Lake village. Over its left slopes Mount Morris is in view on the skyline, twenty miles away.

Somewhat farther to the right the line of summits begins that leads up to the high peaks of the Adirondacks. Ampersand is twenty-six miles distant and is just visible between Kempshall, eleven miles away, and Seward, which stands out broad and high, twenty-one miles distant. Salmon Pond lies three miles away, under the slopes of Blue Mountain, in line with Seward.

Close on the right of Seward there is a deep notch, with Seymour defining its right margin. The several summits of the Sawteeth Range follow closely, but drop away to disclose the peak of Whiteface, which is forty-two miles away and is plainly visible in clear weather.

To the right again the low double summit of Tirrell Pond Mountain is in view, two and a half miles distant. It rises directly behind Tirrell Pond, which lies at the foot of the slopes of Blue Mountain, and it shows rugged ledges on its steep face. Tongue Mountain is on its left and a mile and a half farther away. Almost over the latter, MacIntyre, twenty-five miles distant, rises as a clean-cut summit, with Santanoni big and prominent on its left.

The notch of Avalanche Pass receives the right slope of MacIntyre, while the steep slopes of Mount Colden rise on the right. Fishing Brook Mountain, seven miles distant, its broad summit con-

spicuously notched, is in line with Colden. Over the notch in its crest Mount Marcy is in view, with Redfield intervening to cut off its right hand slopes. Allen follows Redfield closely, while North River Mountain, four miles nearer, conceals the right slopes of Allen. Mount Colvin lies behind the right slopes of North River Mountain. Mount Dix, with an unmistakable scar near its summit, is just to the right.

To the right of Tirrell Pond Mountain and extending behind it Dun Brook Mountain bulks large. Its highest point is east by compass from the summit of Blue. Its right slopes descend to the Chain Lakes, only a small part of which are visible. Over the slopes to the left of the Chain Lakes, Vanderwhacker, fifteen miles distant, is plainly in sight. Behind it, on the horizon, rise two separate summits of the Blue Ridge, twenty-nine miles away. Somewhat more to the right Pharaoh Mountain is visible, low on the horizon.

Farther around to the right Rock Lake, four miles from Blue Mountain, is plainly in view, beyond a marshy area. Gore Mountain, thirty-one miles away, is plainly visible somewhat to the left of Rock Lake.

In the south Snowy Mountain, which is situated near Indian Lake, is barely distinguishable behind Panther Mountain. The latter appears as a long

mass with two distinct summits. Somewhat more to the right Lewey Mountain shows its sharp crest, in line with Stevens Pond, a small body of water four miles from Blue Mountain. A spur of Blue Mountain itself then shuts off the view of near-by regions. Over this spur a wooded height known as Blue Ridge occupies the middle ground, while behind it and a little to the right Wakeley Mountain is in view.

The altitude of Blue Mountain is 3759 feet above sea level. That of Blue Mountain Lake is 1789 feet.

CHAPTER XXXII

BALD MOUNTAIN OR RONDAXE

A short and easy climb, an interesting trail, and an exquisite panorama of the Fulton Chain Lakes, backed by ridges that lead to higher summits, with a glimpse of Marcy and MacIntyre. Round trip from the State highway $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles; time $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

AMONG Adirondack summits Bald Mountain or Rondaxe ranks first or nearly so in the amount of reward that it offers for a very minimum of climbing. The trail to its summit from a motor thoroughfare is less than a mile long, and the rise in altitude is no more than five hundred feet. But from its rugged crest an exquisite panorama of lakes and forests is spread abroad, backed by distant summits, even as far away as Marcy itself. Even the trail itself, though short and involving little climbing, is interesting, with its gentle approach through woods, its vigorous ascent over ledges, and its final journey along an open, rock backbone that forms the summit.

The mountain is situated eight miles within the western boundary of Adirondack Park. On the west there are undulating ridges that give an impression of boundless wooded wilderness without



A PART OF THE FULTON CHAIN FROM RONDAXE
MOUNTAIN

habitations — an impression considerably in accord with the facts. On the east at the very foot of the mountain and extending to right and left are the Fulton Chain Lakes, as beautiful as one can imagine. Beyond them the forested ridges increase in altitude, becoming more and more genuinely mountainous as they lead away toward West Mountain, Blue, and finally the region of the high peaks.

Bold Mountain has been known by several names since the coming of explorers and settlers. Many years ago the trappers and early visitors called it Pond Mountain, no doubt because that it rises so close to the shores of one of the lakes in the Fulton Chain. For a time the name Mont Saint Louis was proposed, for the insufficient reason that a group from the city of that name had been camping each year on one of the lakes. The government topographic map, published in 1901 and reprinted in 1924, gives the name as Bald Mountain, a title by which it was known for a long period, though a name that is anything but original. The interesting name Rondaxe has been applied more recently to designate the observation station of the State Conservation Department.

The foot of the mountain is easy to reach by automobile, following the State Road that leads northeast from Old Forge to Eagle Bay, near the

north shore of the Fulton Chain. Four and a half miles from Old Forge the trail for the summit will be found on the left, marked by a sign.

Leaving the highway the path proceeds through woods, ascending gently. It is a much traveled way and is quite unmistakable. In about fifteen minutes the trail reaches the first of a series of ledges, which it proceeds to climb. There are hand-rails at places where they might be needed, and the route is interesting. In a few minutes the path comes out on a ledge from which there is a view over the tops of the trees in the direction of the Fulton Chain, and as one proceeds other ledges are surmounted, with a constantly widening view.

Presently the trail begins to follow the crest of a long, narrow ridge, as if one were treading the visible backbone of the mountain, and soon this leads to the top and to the observation tower. Much of the summit is open, though there are trees and hollows here and there, and plenty of pleasant places to rest, or to eat lunch. Visitors are welcome at the observation tower when the fire observer is on duty, but it is not necessary to climb the tower in order to enjoy the view.

The element of the view that is certain to claim one's attention at the beginning is the splendid panorama of the Fulton Chain, swinging around the base of the mountain, unfolding its shore-line

and disclosing its deep bays and its blue waters, from the neighborhood of Old Forge, hidden under a spur of the mountain in the southwest, on and on toward the northwest. Mile after mile of wooded shore curves in and out, with shining waters stretching away in front.

First Lake and Second Lake, which lie to the right, seem like a continuous body of water, as indeed they are, except for the dividing line made by an island and a long point of land that projects from the nearer shore. The narrows connecting Second Lake with Third Lake are plainly in view, the latter body of water appearing much larger because it is nearer. Then there is a break because of intervening higher land, and on the left the Fourth Lake appears, with Big Island plainly defined.

If the air is clear enough Mount Marcy, which is approximately fifty-six miles distant, can be seen, over the farthest left hand margin of Fourth Lake. MacIntyre, also, is in view, to the left of Marcy and about the same distance away. A little to the right, Blue Mountain rises plainly, twenty-eight miles distant, its crest rather prominent on the horizon line.

The descending right slopes of Blue lead down to a low segment of the horizon. A part of Raquette Lake is in line with this segment. Close on the

right are two low summits, the nearer Black Bear Mountain, situated just beyond the Fourth Lake of the Fulton Chain, and the farther Estelle Mountain, which rises near South Bay of Racquette Lake. Then the horizon rises again in the prominent height of Blue Ridge Mountain, twenty-two miles away and southeast of the Racquette Lake region.

Over the broad part of Fourth Lake, to the right of Bog Island, Wakeley is visible, situated in the Cedar River country and twenty miles from Rondaxe. Directly over the right end of Fourth Lake, Seventh Lake Mountain, ten miles away, stands out plainly.

Other summits that are nearer and therefore appear more prominent, rise from the region beyond First and Second Lakes. Panther Mountain, five miles distant, shows its broad bulk and its flat top beyond the island and the peninsula that lie between First and Second Lakes. Through a notch on its right Woodhull Mountain is in view. This is followed by Little Moose Mountain, which is situated just south of Old Forge.

In the west and northwest there are many unnamed ridges and lesser summits. Through this region the New York Central Railroad passes, following the valley of North Branch Moose River, not far from the base of the mountain.

The round trip journey to the summit of Rondaxe and return from the state highway can readily be accomplished in an hour to an hour and a half. The total round trip is about a mile and three quarters. Two or three hours will be ample time for a leisurely trip to the summit and a visit on top to enjoy the view.

CHAPTER XXXIII

SNOWY MOUNTAIN

A trail that begins with easy grades and ends with a sharp climb leads to an interesting summit from which much wilderness and many peaks are visible. Open ledges give broad vistas. A modern tower commands the whole panorama. Round trip 8 miles. Time 5 to 6 hours.

It is a remarkable fact that Snowy Mountain, which stands out prominently and exhibits a contour that is easily recognized from a great distance, was not included at all in early maps of the region in which it is situated. So far as official records go, its existence was first noted in 1868, and its height, which is greater than that of the famous Blue Mountain to the north, was first estimated in 1870. With its near neighbors, Squaw Mountain, Panther, Lewey, and Blue Ridge, Snowy is a part of a compact group rising from the northwest shore of Indian and Lewey Lakes, somewhat south of the center of the Adirondack Park.

The summit of Snowy, as one looks at it from the region on the east or northeast, gives an impression of a darkly wooded mass, like a battered and dented block, set upon the top of a broad, high foundation. The sides of that elevated block drop

off almost sheer. The route by which the trail reaches the crest of the mountain is one of only two or three reasonably possible means of approach, unless one were to climb hand over hand or to scale difficult cliffs.

When you look about you from the open ledges in the midst of the scrubby forest that covers the summit, or when you look abroad from the observation tower, you peer down into deep valleys that fall away so steeply as to make you feel as if you were standing directly over them. Beyond these valleys your eye takes in a long series of ridges and summits, extending to a distant horizon which includes in one sector of the view the high peaks of the Adirondacks. Close by in another sector Indian Lake sweeps by under the slopes of the mountain.

Thus, in view, in approach, and in character of the summit, Snowy is a worth-while mountain.

The trail that leads to the summit is easily reached by a motor road connecting the villages of Indian Lake and Speculator. The former is on the motor thoroughfare leading from Lake George and North Creek to Blue Mountain Lake and Long Lake. The latter is on the through road from Northville to the region about Utica. The connecting road strikes southwest from Indian Lake village, passes along the northwest shore of Indian

Lake, and swings around to south and southeast to the village of Speculator.

Six and a half miles from Indian Lake village this connecting road passes a farm house known as 'Mount Snowy Lodge.' There is a sign here indicating the route to Snowy Mountain. The trail starts on the west side of the road, passes to the left of a barn, crosses a fence by a stile, and pursues an irregular course diagonally across a level pasture. On the farther side of this there is another stile. Crossing this the trail enters a wood-road, close to a stream on the left. Here, again, there is a sign. The trail now follows this wood-road and is a plain, wide path.

About twenty minutes after leaving the highway the path crosses a stream which comes from the right, and in the next fifteen minutes crosses three others. The ascent is gradual. Forty minutes from the highway the trail descends two short slopes and at once crosses still another stream. All of these come from the right.

Ten minutes later the path arrives at a brook which it follows for about fifteen minutes, crossing it three times, first as it comes from the right, second from the opposite side, and again from right to left. The third crossing is much used as a place for resting or for lunch. The distance from the highway to this last crossing is a little less than

three miles and the rise in altitude is about seven hundred feet.

A steady climb now begins and soon the pitch becomes steeper. Forty-five minutes from the last crossing the trail forks while climbing at a steep angle. Either path may be taken, for the two unite a short distance above. The trail is now ascending the blocklike summit of the mountain. There are ledges and cliffs in the midst of woods, but the way has been made secure and relatively easy by several long series of steps, built by the fire observer stationed on the mountain.

Presently the observer's cabin is reached. It is situated on a ledge which commands a splendid view of Indian Lake and the mountains beyond. The distance from the highway to the cabin is approximately three and three quarters miles and the climb to this point is 1950 feet. A few yards beyond the cabin there is another open ledge provided with seats and looking toward the northwest.

The top of the mountain is now only five minutes away and lies to the left as one reaches the ridge by the cabin. The remaining short walk is in the midst of stunted woods. On the highest point there is an observation tower, and near it there are ledges commanding views to the southeast and south.

The total distance from the highway to the summit of the mountain is four miles and the total climb is two thousand feet. The time required from highway to summit is usually two and a half to three hours.

One of the most impressive and satisfactory parts of the view from Snowy is the panorama from the ledge back of the observer's cabin, where rustic seats invite one to sit and enjoy the prospect. A great sweep of wooded valley lies below, with Little Squaw Brook leading off toward the left and Squaw Brook toward the right. On the farther side Panther Mountain rises as a long ridge, with peaks at either end, the higher one to the right. The whole broad valley, with its high mountain wall on the farther side, gives one a satisfying impression of remoteness, untouched by sight or sound of human habitation. One is content to sit and look upon it for many minutes, and one returns to it to enjoy again its impressive isolation.

From the tower on the summit the complete panorama is spread abroad, encompassing nearly all of the south half of the Adirondack Park, and touching upon many high points of the northern half. With the crest of Panther Mountain as a starting point one can identify many interesting heights.

Mount Morris, situated near Tupper Lake and thirty-two miles distant, lies just to the left of Panther's crest. The top of Blue Mountain, twelve miles away, is to the right. Rock Lake is a little farther to the right. Directly over it and thirty-two miles distant, Seward is visible on the horizon, its summit broad and square. Seymour, with a sharp cone, is close by on its right. It is followed by the prominent bulk of Santanoni, the top of which gives the profile of a shallow notch.

On the right of Santanoni and close to its descending slopes the summit cone of Mount Whiteface can be seen in clear weather. It is about fifty-one miles away. The flat top of Wallface follows it on the right. The cleft of Indian Pass comes next and is followed by the high and unmistakable crest of MacIntyre. Again, there is a deep cleft, marking the position of Avalanche Pass, its right margin defined by the steep slope of Mount Colden. From the summit of Colden a high skyline leads up to the crest of Mount Marcy, thirty-six miles distant.

The top of Haystack is visible on the right of Marcy. A deep and narrow notch on its right separates it from the Gothics and Sawteeth. These, in turn, are followed by Nippletop, which appears to have a rather broad summit, and Dix,

with its high crown. Vanderwhacker is in line with the highest point of Nippletop.

Indian Lake now comes into view, extending around to the south under the rugged slopes of Snowy. Over an open stretch of its water, about a quarter of the way from the left end to the right, one can see Chimney Mountain, Bullhead, and Gore, almost in line. The first of these has a steep left face and a characteristic summit. Crane Mountain is visible on the horizon, somewhat farther to the right. It is twenty-three miles distant and is in line with Kunjamuk, which is six miles away.

In the south, over the right end of Indian Lake, one can see a part of the long and narrow arm of the lake that lies in the valley of the Jessup River. Dug Mountain lies beyond it. Lewey Lake is to the right.

Wooded slopes now follow, leading up to the summits lying southwest of Snowy and connected with it. Lewey Mountain is the first of these and is a prominent cone. Blue Ridge Mountain is close on its left, with Cellar Mountain nearer and lower. Over the top of Cellar and six miles farther away, another summit known as Blue Ridge is in view.

To the right the near-by slopes of Panther Mountain now begin, extending from southwest all the way around to north. In the northwest

over the lowest part of this ridge one can see Wakeley Mountain which is on the farther side of the Cedar River Country. On its right, twenty miles away, West Mountain beyond Raquette Lake is in sight.

The return trip from the summit of Snowy can be made rather rapidly if one wishes, for the way is easy after the steep descent of the upper part of the mountain. Two hours is ample to allow for the return trip, and fast walkers will readily do it in an hour and a half. The round trip from highway to summit and return can easily be done in five or six hours, allowing for a stay on the summit.

CHAPTER XXXIV

HAMILTON MOUNTAIN

A climb of 1250 feet gives access to a broad, wooded summit where an observation tower affords a view that extends as far as the Mount Marcy region in the north, the Green Mountains of Vermont in the east, and a vast country in the west. Distance, public road to summit and return, 6 miles. Time for round trip 4 to 5 hours.

IN the southerly part of the Adirondack State Park lies the region of Lake Pleasant, Speculator, and Piseco Lake. East of Piseco and south of Speculator rises Hamilton Mountain, its broad crown elevated high enough to command not only the country of the lakes near by but a very wide territory besides, including the high peaks of the Mount Marcy region, fifty-five miles away in the northeast, a line of distant summits in Vermont, and a vast region of lesser mountains in the northwest.

The height of Hamilton is 3250 feet above sea level. The start of the trail, easily reached by motor car, is at an altitude of about two thousand feet. The climb to the summit, therefore, is a moderate one. The distance from the end of the public road to the top of the mountain is about three miles. Ordinarily, the ascent occupies two

to two and a half hours and the descent an hour and a half.

The road to the base of the mountain branches to the southeast in Lake Pleasant village, opposite the courthouse. There is a sign here, reading 'Hamilton Mountain.' A mile and a half from the village the route to the mountain bears sharply to the right, avoiding a road that continues near the shore of Lake Pleasant. At the end of another mile and a half the public road comes to an end at a summer camp. A wood-road, which can be followed by a horse-drawn vehicle but not by a car, continues.

The path to the mountain, marked by red discs, starts here and follows the wood-road. In three minutes it crosses a brook at a small fish hatchery. Four minutes beyond there is a fork and here the path keeps to the right. The route now follows, in the main, a rough wood-road which leads around the right side of a spur of Mount Hamilton and ascends the shallow valley between this spur and the main summit. The trail at one point cuts across, omitting a loop of the road in its lower part.

The path crosses one or two small brooks near the start and in about an hour from the public road approaches another brook which can be heard on the right. In another fifteen minutes the

trail turns sharply from the wood-road, crosses the brook which has been within sound, and begins to climb somewhat more briskly. The distance to this point is two and a half miles and the altitude here is about seven hundred feet above that at the start. The wood-road, which the trail has been following, continues by a roundabout course to the top of the mountain, but is used only for hauling supplies to the observer's cabin.

Zigzagging and following easy grades, the trail now makes its way gradually to the summit. For the last five minutes of the journey the path is almost level. It then comes out into a small clearing, with the observer's cabin on the right hand and the observation tower close by.

The view from the summit includes many lakes that lie in the surrounding region. On the west one can see Spy Lake and two parts of Piseco, including Big Bay, which lies at the foot of the lake. A little way to the right a part of Ox Bow is in view. Hamilton Lake lies close under the mountain on the northwest. Over it is Sacandaga, and to the right is Lake Pleasant. Over Pleasant one can see Snowy Mountain on the horizon, twenty miles away.

To the right and near by stands Speculator Mountain. Over it, on the far distant horizon, the high peaks of the Adirondacks are visible, if the

air is clear enough. They begin at the left with Seward and Seymour. Santanoni comes next, relatively high and prominent. MacIntyre is a little farther to the right and is still higher. It is followed by the lower but sharp crest of Colden, and this in turn leads up to Marcy, almost hidden by an intervening summit. To the right are the Gothics and Colvin, and still farther to the right lies Dix.

Gore Mountain is northeast, twenty-four miles away. Crane is east, twenty-two miles distant. A long array of lesser summits completes the panorama through southeast, south, and west. .

CHAPTER XXXV

PHARAOH MOUNTAIN

Much rugged country and many lakes surround this mountain.

The view from its summit is diversified and includes a wide array of peaks. The climb is moderate and the trail is good. Distance, public road to summit and return, 6 miles, time 4 to 5 hours.

PHARAOH MOUNTAIN lies just within the eastern boundary of the Adirondack Park and is about ten miles west of the upper end of Lake George. It is readily reached by a moderate climb over a good trail that starts from the end of a rough road leading east from the main highway connecting Schroon Lake with Elizabethtown.

There are many lakes in the rugged country surrounding the mountain and the view is one of much beauty and diversity, including the high peaks of the Adirondacks on the north, other summits on the south and west, and an interesting skyline of the Green Mountains on the east. Because of the fact that the mountain is situated in the easterly region of the Adirondacks the view is different from that afforded by many other well-known peaks.

There are two trails to the summit, one ap-

proaching it from the southwest and south, while the other climbs the mountain from way of Crane Pond on the north. Of these two the first is the less traveled and is the longer. The second is the usual means of access and is recommended.

To reach Crane Pond take the motor thoroughfare that skirts the westerly margin of Schroon Lake and follow this north from Schroon Lake village about two miles to the first road leading to the right. There is a sign at this fork. The branch road is a good, country way for the first two or three miles, hilly but considerably used. Presently, after passing some farms, it grows rougher, and the last stretch as one nears the pond is barely passable for motor cars. It ends at the outlet of the pond, at a small camp site where there is a fireplace.

Another means of access to Crane Pond is by way of a trail that starts from the State highway past Paradox Lake. It begins at a point four miles east of the Schroon Lake motor thoroughfare and is marked by a sign. The distance to Crane Pond is three miles.

The trail up the mountain starts to the right from the camp site at Crane Pond, as one arrives at the outlet of the pond. It crosses the outlet immediately and for the first twenty minutes follows a fairly level course, crossing two brooks that

come from the right. Then begins a moderate climb through a hardwood forest with a sprinkling of evergreens. The telephone wire that leads to the fire observer's cabin on the summit is within sight of the trail most of the time. Red discs mark the route of the path.

Twenty-five minutes from Crane Pond the path crosses a brook which comes from the right, and in a few minutes crosses another which comes from the left. The trail now begins to ascend more rapidly, though the grades are still moderate. In five minutes the path approaches a brook on the left but does not cross it for some time. A few minutes later it passes a spring on the right. The distance from Crane Pond to this point is about two miles and a half, and the gain in altitude above Crane Pond is about one thousand feet.

Five minutes later the trail climbs over open ledges from which there are gradually widening views to the north and west. Ascending over other ledges for ten minutes more the trail reaches the summit of the mountain, with its steel fire-tower situated on the highest ledge. The observer's cabin is in a sheltered hollow to the left. The distance from Crane Pond to the summit is three miles and the climb is fifteen hundred feet. The altitude of the mountain above sea level is 2557 feet. The tower affords an excellent place from

which to enjoy the view, but the open ledges of the rough summit make it unnecessary to climb the tower.

The outstanding character of the view from this mountain is one of many rough and wooded, lesser summits near at hand, with sparkling lakes in the deep and wild valleys, while farther away rise a multitude of higher peaks.

Pharaoh Lake, which the Indians called 'On-Nis-Ske,' meaning 'Silver Lake,' lies close by on the southeast. On its right and directly south by compass is Whortleberry Pond. Slightly north of west one can see a part of the broad waters of Schroon Lake. Nearer and slightly to the left there is a glimpse of tiny Spectacle Pond. Goose Pond is near by and north by compass. Over it is a glimpse of Paradox Lake. On its right and near at hand Crane Pond is plainly in view, with Pyramid Lake beyond it. Still farther to the right Horseshoe Pond lies beneath the descending slopes of Pharaoh. Farther away in that direction, in the midst of rugged hills, one can see Goose Neck Pond, with Eagle Lake beyond it.

The distant mountains may be found and identified by their situation with reference to these various ponds and lakes. The high peaks of the Adirondacks lie in the direction of Goose Pond and Paradox Lake. Mounts Skylight, Marcy, and

Haystack are directly over these two bodies of water. Basin, Saddleback, and the Gothics follow them on the right and they in turn are followed by Nippletop, the broad summit of McComb, and the sharp peak of Dix. The skyline then falls away in a deep notch on the right of which is the high summit of the Giant, with Rocky Peak Ridge close by.

The Green Mountains now come into view and extend along the horizon all of the way around to the south. The Chin of Mount Mansfield is over the middle of Eagle Lake, while the Nose of that same big mountain is in line with Goose Neck Pond. Bolton Mountain is over the right end of Goose Neck and is followed by the unmistakable summit of Camel's Hump, or Couching Lion. Other Green Mountain summits now follow, including Ira Allen, the long ridge of Lincoln, Grant, the bulk of Breadloaf, and the peaks of Pico and Killington. The last is southeast, in line with a small body of water known as Berrymill Pond, which lies to the left of Pharaoh Lake and somewhat farther away.

Black Mountain, which is situated on the farther side of Lake George, sixteen miles distant, is slightly west of south by compass. Crane Mountain, with a broad, square top, is twenty-four miles distant in the southwest. Gore Mountain is

almost west and is twenty-two miles away. It is over the left part of Schroon Lake. Farther to the right Blue Mountain stands out plainly, thirty-eight miles distant. Vanderwhacker is on its right, twenty-three miles away, beyond the right margin of Schroon Lake. The Blue Ridge, ten miles distant, now bulks prominently. Just on its right Boreas is in view, eighteen miles away. This, in turn, leads to the skyline of high peaks including Mount Marcy, twenty-four miles distant.

The return trip from the summit of Pharaoh to Crane Pond usually occupies about an hour and a half. The round trip can be accomplished in four to five hours, allowing for a stay on the summit.

CHAPTER XXXVI

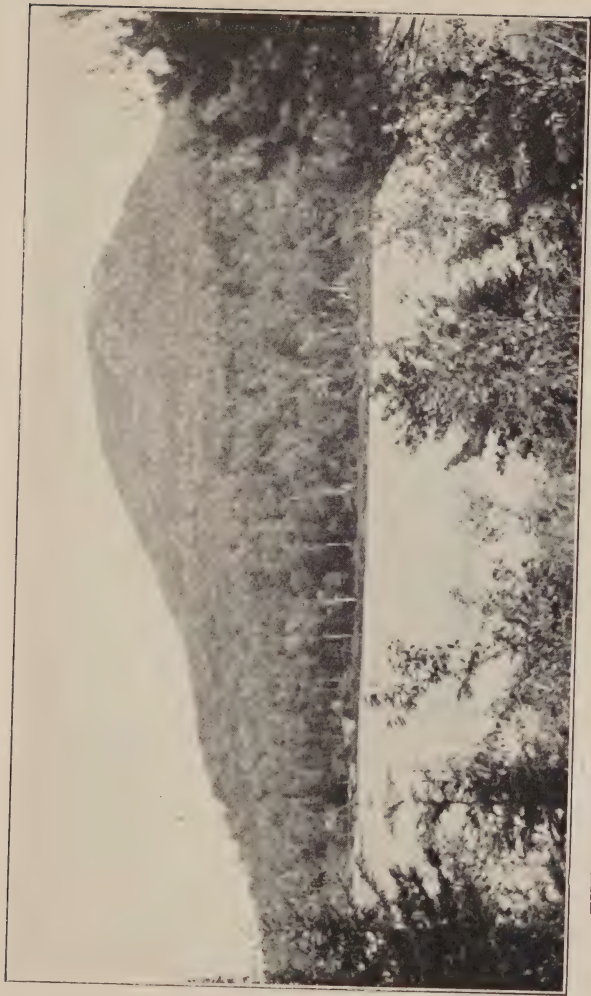
CRANE MOUNTAIN

An interesting mountain with a glacial lake high up on its shoulder. The view broad and satisfactory. A good trail on the southwest side makes the ascent rapidly. Distance, public road to summit and return about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Time 3 to 4 hours.

ALTHOUGH Crane Mountain is situated well to the southeast among the Adirondacks and is in fact a short distance outside the Adirondack Park, the view from its summit embraces many high peaks in the central Adirondack region, including the summits of the Great Range, and takes in as well the backbone range of the Green Mountains in Vermont. In itself Crane Mountain is an interesting and rugged mass of rock with many cliffs and precipitous slopes. High up toward the summit there is a beautiful, clear lake.

The mountain is really climbed from the southwest side in a round trip of three or four hours over a choice of two trails. There is another trail from the easterly side, but it is much longer and does not afford the relatively easy access obtainable from the southwest.

Crane Mountain stands a few miles south of the



THE CREST OF CRANE MOUNTAIN, ACROSS THE LAKE NEAR THE SUMMIT

village of North Creek. From North Creek a road leads in a general southerly direction to the village of Wevertown. The same spot may be reached by a road approaching it from the southeast. General access to the region is by way of the thoroughfare following the Hudson River Valley.

From Wevertown a road leads southwest two miles to Johnsburg, a small village. Continuing straight through Johnsburg one will find a road branching to the left, an eighth of a mile beyond. This branch road is followed five miles to a point where another branch forks to the left at a sign reading 'Crane Mountain.' The latter road, which is narrow, crosses a bridge and proceeds two miles to a small farm known as the 'Putnam place.' Crane Mountain is now close by on the left. The road formerly continued past the Putnam place through a notch between Crane Mountain and Little Mountain on the south, and thus to the country beyond, but the part of it in the notch is no longer in use.

The start of two trails, both leading to the summit, will be found by continuing straight ahead past the house, following the wheel tracks that mark the route of the old road, and passing a fence five minutes walk distant.

Just beyond the fence the older of the two trails leaves the old road and at once begins to

climb a steep slope in the midst of an open hardwood forest that has grown up in what was once a pasture. The route is indicated by markers attached to trees.

In five minutes the path reaches ledges which it begins to ascend at a sharp pitch. Soon views open out. Other ledges follow as the path makes its way rapidly up the mountain. One of these is broad and open and is bordered on the left by a small stream.

About three quarters of an hour from the Putnam place the path arrives at the pond that has been mentioned above. The distance to the pond is about a mile and the altitude is about nine hundred feet above the Putnam farm. The trail reaches the pond near its outlet. Across it the tramper can see the crest of the mountain, which rises about five hundred and fifty feet higher. The pond itself is an interesting body of water brought into existence by débris dropped by the ice at the time of the last invasion of the Labrador ice cap.

The trail proceeds around the right margin of the pond, making its way to the spot that was formerly the fire observer's headquarters, situated near the shore at the foot of the final crest of the mountain. There is good drinking-water near this place.

From this point to the summit the trail climbs

steadily, at first in woods, but later along more or less open ledges. About fifteen minutes from the pond the trail reaches the top of a rocky ridge which it follows, presently coming out on cliffs which drop off steeply on the right. Ten minutes farther the summit of the mountain is reached. Here there is a steel tower with an observation room.

The total distance from the beginning of the trail at the Putnam place to the top of the mountain is two miles and the time required for the ascent is ordinarily an hour and a half to two hours. The descent is readily made in an hour.

In the summer of 1927 a new trail was cut out and marked to the summit of Crane Mountain from the end of the road described above. A new observer's cabin was built, which can be reached by way of this trail. It is a more direct route to the top of the mountain and is shorter than the one by way of the pond. It does not, of course, include the view of the pond that one gets from the former trail.

The new trail starts on the abandoned road beyond the farmhouse already described on page 305. Instead of swinging to the left and taking a northerly course up the ledges toward the pond, it bears to the right, following an easterly direction and keeping in the neighborhood of a small brook. About half a mile from the start a branch trail

leads to the right to the observer's cabin, which is situated near a spring. The trail to the mountain begins to climb rapidly and in another half mile reaches the more gradual slopes that lie above the ledges. In a few minutes more it comes out at the observer's tower on the crest of the mountain. The trail is marked with red discs.

The distance from the farmhouse where a car can be left to the summit of the mountain by this route is about a mile and three quarters. The distance to the observer's cabin is three quarters of a mile. The time required to the summit and return, allowing for leisurely going, and for a stay on the summit, is three to four hours.

The altitude of Crane Mountain was originally determined as 3252 feet, was corrected to 3288, and is now set down as 3254. It stands well above other heights in the region, and its view in all directions is wide and interesting.

Prominent shoulders of the mountain itself extend to the northwest and southeast. Over the northwest shoulder Blue Mountain is discernible on the horizon, thirty-one miles away. Farther to the left and seven miles nearer Snowy stands out plainly, with the long ridge of Panther on its right. Between Blue and Snowy there is a broad and prominent near-by bulk known as Eleventh Mountain. To the right of this mass and a little

farther away, is Height of Land Mountain, while on its right Gore Mountain rises high and unmistakable, with a square-cut, flat top. On its right Vanderwhacker is in view. It is almost north by compass.

The high peaks of the Adirondacks now begin on the distant horizon, with Santanoni thirty-seven miles away, showing up prominently, followed by Henderson, MacNaughton, and a part of the MacIntyre Range. North River Mountain, which lies a few miles nearer, shuts off the right part of the range. It is followed closely by Redfield and that, in turn, by the high summit of Mount Marcy, thirty-eight miles away.

Haystack appears as a sharp pyramid on the right of Marcy, with Basin, equally sharp, close by on its right. This is followed in turn by the two somewhat lower summits of Saddleback and the scarred face of the Gothics. The Sawteeth offer a series of low, jagged points to the right of the Gothics, and these are followed by the prominent crest of Nippletop which in turn gives way to the equally prominent height of Dix. The summit of the Giant and a part of Rocky Peak Ridge are visible behind Hoffman Mountain, which lies to the right of Dix.

In the northeast Pharaoh Mountain is in view, twenty-four miles distant, in line with part of the

Green Mountain Range which sweeps across the northeasterly horizon. Black Mountain, twenty-two miles away, beyond the shores of Lake George, is almost due east by compass.

In the south and southwest various small lakes can be made out in the midst of woods and slopes. Little Pond is west of south by compass, lying at the foot of Little Mountain. Mud Pond and Round Pond are farther to the right, while in the southwest the view includes a part of Mill Creek Pond, with Mount Blue — not Blue Mountain — beyond it. Speculator Mountain is on the horizon in line with Mount Blue.

The access to Crane Mountain by the southeast, as described above, makes it possible to enjoy this summit in a trip of half a day, allowing for an ample stay to enjoy the view. It is in itself one of the interesting mountains of the Adirondacks, and the panorama that it presents is worth while.

CHAPTER XXXVII

GORE MOUNTAIN

A road that leads to a garnet mine and is readily traversed by motor car, combined with a foot-trail a mile long, gives access to the top of this mountain. The view extensive in every direction. Time, end of road to summit and return, 2 to 3 hours.

A STEADY climb of five miles by public road, which one may accomplish by motor car, followed by a mile afoot, takes one to the top of Gore Mountain. The combination of road and trail makes possible the easy ascent of a summit that rises 3595 feet above sea level.

A garnet mine, discovered many years ago, is responsible for the convenient road. The story goes that a fisherman, stopping to get a drink from a brook, found the glittering mineral. Not much of it was suitable for gems, but a great deal of it made excellent abrasive. The work of blasting it out was soon begun, and is going on to-day in a more comprehensive fashion than ever. There are large mine buildings and extensive operations.

The road to the mine branches from the main highway that connects North Creek with Blue Mountain and Long Lake. It leaves this thorough-

fare on the southwest side a short distance east of North River. There is a sign here indicating the route to the garnet mine. The altitude at the fork is 1060 feet above sea level. In accomplishing its climb of 1550 feet in the next five miles the branch road maintains a steady ascent, but there is no part of it that is difficult for a car to negotiate. Not the least interesting feature of the road is the fact that it is graded in part with garnet *débris*.

Cars may be parked near the mill where the road comes to an end. The start of the trail to the top of the mountain will be found by proceeding past an oil tank above the mill, around the right side of a rock dump, and along a little, narrow-gauge railway for a few rods. A sign will then be noted on the right, marking the beginning of the trail.

From this point to the top of the mountain the way is unmistakable. The distance to the summit is about a mile and the climb is nine hundred and eighty-five feet. The grade is not excessively steep but is persistent. There is a spring on the right, beside the trail, about fifteen minutes above the start.

An observation tower on the crest of the mountain affords a complete panorama. A trail, starting near the tower and continuing to a ledge a few minutes' walk distant, offers an interesting outlook into the wooded valley on the south side of the

mountain and across to the summits that lie beyond.

A very large number of lesser and greater mountains are visible from Gore. Most interesting, and plainly to be distinguished in clear weather, are the high peaks of the Adirondacks, which are east of north by compass. Santanoni is prominent on the horizon, slightly to right of north. It is twenty-nine miles away in an air line. Henderson and MacNaughton are on its right, followed by the high crest of the MacIntyre Range. Vanderwhacker is directly in line with Santanoni and is thirteen miles nearer.

The summit of Colden is just visible to the right of MacIntyre, behind North River Mountain and Cheney Cobble. Marcy rises high, immediately on the right, and is about thirty-one miles away. On the right of Marcy the Great Range can be made out, including Haystack, Basin, Saddleback, and the Gothics. A little farther to the right Nippletop stands out prominently and is followed by Dix and McComb.

A part of Schroon Lake is visible in the northeast, with Pharaoh Mountain not far away, a little north of east. South of east Black Mountain, situated beyond Lake George and twenty-six miles away, is in view on the horizon. Crane Mountain, which stands out boldly nine miles away, is a

little east of south, and Eleventh Mountain, five miles distant, is west of south. Snowy, which is situated on the farther side of Indian Lake, is north of west. Blue Mountain is prominent in the northwest.

The round trip from the garnet mines to the summit of Gore and return is a tramp of two miles. The journey is readily accomplished in two to three hours, allowing for a visit on the summit.

CHAPTER XXXVIII

BLACK MOUNTAIN

An exquisite panorama of Lake George is afforded by this mountain, with a splendid array of high peaks beyond. A long line of the Green Mountains is visible in the east. Two good trails. One from a public road involves the less climbing and the shorter distance: round trip about 3 miles, time 3 hours. The other from a boat landing on Lake George is much used: round trip 5 miles, time 4 to 5 hours.

Not many mountains in the east offer a view that possesses more elements of beauty than that which is spread before the climber as he stands on the summit of Black Mountain and looks down upon the curving shore-line of Lake George, its clear water bearing a company of dark wooded islands, while beyond its farther shores rise range after range of mountains.

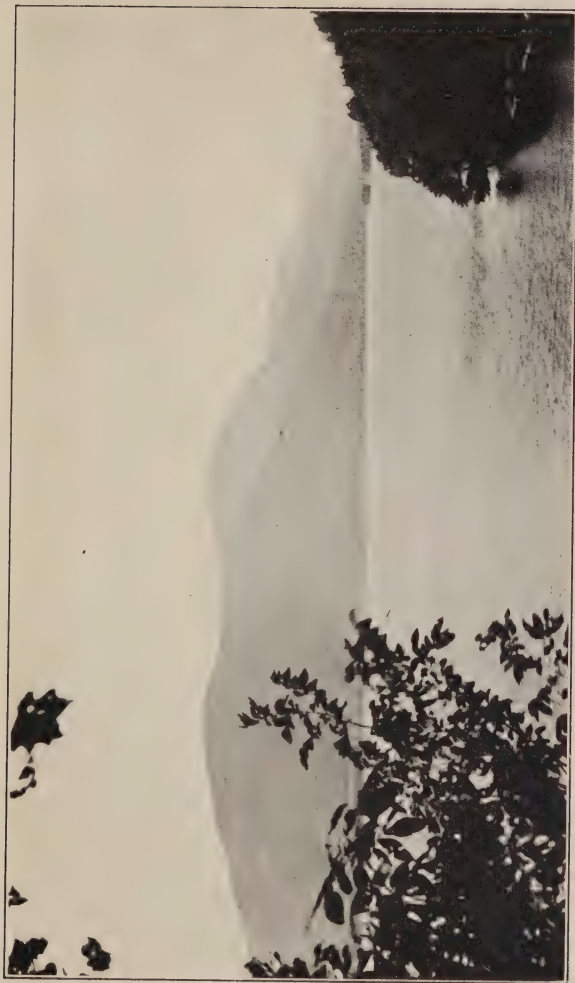
Black Mountain rises directly from the east shore of Lake George, about midway of that long, mountain-bordered body of water. The lake itself is 322 feet above sea level; the mountain is 2665. The viewpoint from the summit therefore is well aloft — higher, indeed, than the course of the airplane that often wings its way above the lake and its islands. The crest of the mountain is broken

ledge, partly covered with soil that supports a scattered growth of evergreens, in the midst of which there are open areas from which one can see abroad. There is a steel tower that affords a full view in all directions.

Two much-used trails climb the mountain. One of these starts from the road that connects Hulett's Landing on Lake George with South Bay on Lake Champlain. The other begins at a small landing on the shore of Lake George, directly under the slopes of Black Mountain.

The first-named trail is the one used by the fire observer stationed on the mountain. To reach it from the direction of Whitehall one turns to the left from the State road just west of South Bay Bridge, taking a less-used road, continuing along this for two and a half miles and then bearing to the right up the valley of Pike Brook. This road soon becomes narrow and climbs steeply around many sharp curves. It is not much followed by motor cars but is passable. When eight miles from the State road a private road will be seen branching off on the left, just beyond a white house. There is a prominent knob with sharp cliffs, high above on the left.

To reach the beginning of this trail by way of Hulett's Landing one may take a boat to the Landing and from that point follow the road on the



BLACK MOUNTAIN, ACROSS LAKE GEORGE

east side of Elephant Mountain and Black Mountain. Or, if coming from the north by motor car one may follow the State road south through the rugged country between Lake George and Lake Champlain and thus reach the little-used road that skirts the easterly side of Black Mountain.

Motor cars should be left at the point where the private road leaves the public road. Ten minutes' walk on the private road leads to a clearing in which there is a summer residence. The trail for the mountain leaves this clearing on the right, on a slope that is grown up to bushes and small trees. From the clearing the summit of Black Mountain and the steel tower used by the fire observer are visible.

The trail at first follows an old wood-road. Fifteen minutes from the clearing it passes a spring on the right, and in the next five minutes crosses two small brooks. On the farther side of the second brook the trail turns sharply to the left, leaving the wood-road. There is a sign here indicating the route to the mountain.

The path now begins to climb more steeply with a brook near by on the left. In five minutes the wood-road from which the trail diverted below comes in on the right. The telephone line to the observer's cabin is close by, all along the trail. Climbing rapidly for twelve or fifteen minutes the

highest. It is slightly west of north by compass and is thirty-five miles distant. McComb, with a rounded top, is close on its left and is followed by the sharp peak of Nippletop. Then follow in order Basin, Haystack, Marcy, Skylight, and Redfield. Pharaoh Mountain, which does not rise as high as the skyline, is in line with the notch between Nippletop and Sawteeth.

Hoffman Mountain, which is somewhat nearer, then occupies the view. Over its left end the long crest of Santanoni can be seen. Still farther to the left the sharp cone of Vanderwhacker rises behind intervening ridges. It is over the left slopes of Five Mile Mountain. Over the notch between Five Mile and Tongue the summit of Blue Mountain can be distinguished in clear weather, forty-seven miles away. It appears to have a flat top, as if squarely cut off.

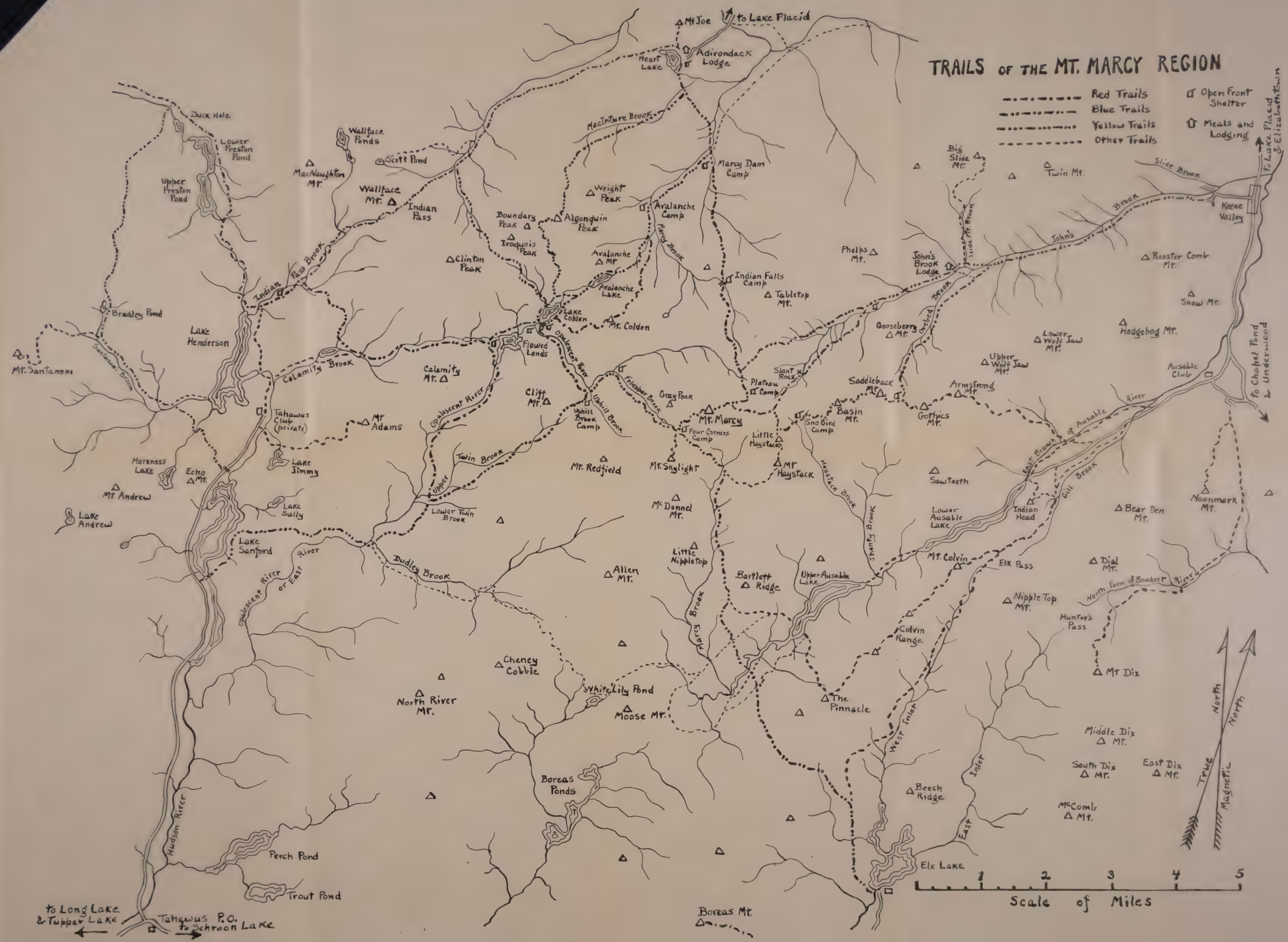
Turning now to the right and looking across the part of Lake George that becomes visible in that direction, one sees Catamount Mountain, six miles distant. On the horizon, in line with its summit, are the Giant and Rocky Peak Ridge, thirty-nine miles away.

Glimpses of Lake Champlain are visible in the northeast. The color of the water in the part of the lake that can be seen is distinctly different from that of Lake George.

The Green Mountains begin in the northeast and extend around to east, occupying the horizon in that direction. Mount Mansfield is north-northeast by compass and is closely followed by Bolton. The prominent summit of the Couching Lion, or Camel's Hump, is slightly more to the right. Farther along is the extended crest of Lincoln Mountain. There is a notch on its right, with Mount Grant bordering the other margin. Still farther to the right is Bread Loaf. Pico and Killington rise high and prominent almost due east.

The round trip from the highway to the summit of Black Mountain and return by way of the fire observer's trail is a tramp of about three miles and can readily be accomplished in three hours, allowing for a stay on the summit. The round trip from Black Mountain Landing on Lake George is a tramp of five miles and ordinarily requires about five hours, including an allowance for a stay on the top of the mountain.

THE END

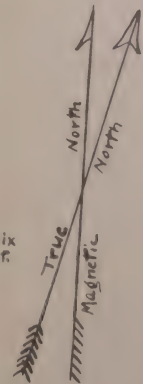


TRAILS OF THE MT. MARCY REGION

- Red Trails
- Blue Trails
- Yellow Trails
- Other Trails
- Open Front Shelter
- Meals and Lodging

Scale of Miles

0 1 2 3 4 5



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By Walter Collins O'Kane